

AN OLD
FAMILY



THE SETONS
IN
SCOTLAND & AMERICA





Robert Seton, D.D.
W



AN OLD FAMILY

OR

THE SETONS OF SCOTLAND AND AMERICA

BY

MONSIGNOR SETON

(MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY)



NEW YORK
BRENTANO'S
1899

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ROBERT SETON, D.D.



TO
A DEAR AND HONORED KINSMAN
SIR BRUCE-MAXWELL SETON OF ABERCORN, BARONET
THIS RECORD OF SCOTTISH ANCESTORS AND
AMERICAN COUSINS
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
BY THE AUTHOR

Preface.

The glories of our blood and state
Are shadows, not substantial things.

—SHIRLEY.

GIBBON says in his *Autobiography*: “A lively desire of knowing and recording our ancestors so generally prevails that it must depend on the influence of some common principle in the minds of men”; and I am strongly persuaded that a long line of distinguished and patriotic forefathers usually engenders a poised self-respect which is neither pride nor arrogance, nor a bit of mediævalism, nor a superstition of dead ages. It is founded on the words of Scripture: *Take care of a good name; for this shall continue with thee more than a thousand treasures precious and great* (Ecclesiasticus xli. 15).

There is no civilized people, whether living under republican or monarchical institutions, but has some kind of aristocracy. It may take the form of birth, of intellect, or of wealth; but it is there. Of these manifestations of inequality among men, the noblest is that of Mind, the most romantic that of Blood, the meanest that of Money. Therefore, while a man may have a decent regard for his lineage, he should avoid whatever implies a contempt for others not so well born. “Who were thine ancestors?” was put by Dante into the mouth of a reprobate—Farinata degli Uberti—lifting his haughty and tranquil brow from a couch of everlasting fire:

“E'en as if Hell he had in great despite.”

It is a little embarrassing to write about Family in America. The insolence of wealth, the crushing ostentation, the impudent assumption of crests and coats-of-arms, ought, perhaps, to be left unnoticed, because, as Selden says in his *Table Talk*, "Honesty sometimes keeps a man from growing rich and civility from being witty." It now seems incongruous and out of harmony with the right ideas for an old family to have Money, for Money is the chief distinction in our sordid age; although to a reflective and imaginative mind there is nothing grand in a House founded on gold, whose heirlooms are shares and bonds and city lots—a House without traditions of self-sacrifice and chivalry to hand down to later generations.

The early emigration to this country was not drawn to any considerable extent from the ignorant and poorer part of the population; but was largely composed of those who were not merely of an adventurous disposition and energetic character, but were also possessed of some pecuniary means and some advantages of education. Yet few of the Colonial families were scions of old stock. Recently, however, claims are advanced in every direction, and Americans who aspire to Society, at home or abroad—earlier, perhaps, abroad than at home—pretend to be connected with British families on similarity of name or other flimsy foundation in a manner that makes them ridiculous—to the Sphinx from whom they would learn the secret of their transmarine descent. Yet any reasonable member of the Forty Families in America whose aristocratic origin is "well ratified by law and heraldry" will have the good sense to say with the wise and eloquent Ulysses, when resting his claim to leadership on personal merits and not on the divinity of his ancestors:

Nam genus, et proavos, et quae non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra voco.

—*Metamorphoses*, XIII., 140.

With us every honest man can become his own ancestor.

The following extract from an article by the late General E. P. Scammon on "The South Before, During, and After the War," which appeared in the *Catholic World* for March, 1892, is quoted because it speaks the truth about a matter on which there has been a certain confusion of ideas: "That there was little difference of social rank or condition between the colonists of North and South is proved beyond question by colonial records. There is no escape from their evidence; and they tell us not only who but what the colonists were. Generally they were people who sought to improve their worldly fortunes; they were neither the rich nor the powerful. The more numerous exceptions to this rule would naturally be expected, where, in fact, they were, among those who came to the New World to secure that religious liberty *for themselves* which was denied them in the Old. They were notably among the Puritans of New England, the Friends, or Quakers, of Pennsylvania, and the Catholics of Maryland. Doubtless there were many others—adventurous younger sons with little fortune or prospect of preferment at home, and some whom adversity had so reduced in fortune that they were unable to maintain their accustomed stations in the Old World, but yet were left with what was comparative wealth for a new country where poverty was the rule. To this class some of the leading colonists of Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia belonged. But their numbers were relatively small. The pretence of gentle birth, as a characteristic difference between colonists of different States, is alike silly and unfounded. There were Washingtons, Fairfaxes, Masons, Lees, and Johnstones in the array of old names in Virginia; Tudors, Vaughans, Waldrons, Wentworths, and Dudleys in New England; as later there were Van Cortlandts, Van Rensselaers, Livingstons, and Setons in New York, and in these and other colonies a list of less familiar names which might challenge their claims to precedence."

It is more than forty years since I began to study the history of my family and to gather notes on every subject concerning it—since I commenced to talk to venerable men about it and to take from their lips the lore of earlier times: *Remember the days of old; think upon every generation; ask thy father, and he will declare to thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee* (Deut. xxxii. 7).

Some of my friends and acquaintances may feel surprised that I should pay attention to a subject of no general or public interest, and which seems especially reprehensible in view of the Apostle's admonition to Timothy and Titus to "avoid foolish questions" and "endless genealogies." In extenuation, I will say that I have neglected no ecclesiastical duty in compiling the records of my family, to which I have devoted only "those interstitial vacancies" that may intervene even in the most crowded variety of occupation, and that they have little in common with the tables of descent such as the Jews paraded, giving rise to trivial disputes and unreasonable expectations reproved by St. Paul. Not alone have Clerics, in the past, been often the only preservers of their family history, but every family of mediæval antiquity must go to monastic chronicles and religious charters for the earlier links of its pedigree. To mention only Scotchmen: Father Aloysius Leslie, S.J., wrote the history of the Leslies, published in a large and sumptuous folio at Grätz in 1692, with the title *Laurus Lesliana Explicata*; and about the same time Father Hay gave out his *Genealogie of the Hays of Tweeddale*. I might also add that my learned correspondent the late Henry Foley, S.J., has collected in his *Records of the English Province* an immense amount of genealogical information about old families in Great Britain.

Acknowledgments.

I AM indebted for assistance to the following gentlemen, to whom I return thanks if living, and of whom I am mindful if dead: Sir William Fraser, the Peerage Lawyer; Sir John Hope of Pinkie, Bart. ; Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, Esq., of Wydale; Reginald Stuart Poole, Esq., of the British Museum; Rev. Dr. Struthers, Minister of Prestonpans; Colonel the Hon. Robert Boyle, brother to the Earl of Glasgow; Mark Seton Synnot, Esq., of Ballymoyer; William Dunlop, Esq., of Edinburgh; Charles Olney, Esq., of the Bank of New York; ex-Governor Francis Philip Fleming, of Florida; Henry Vining Ogden, Esq. ; Bergwyne Maitland, Esq. ; William Seton Gordon, Esq. ; Henry Ogden, Esq.

Bibliography.

I. The History of the House of Seytoun to the Year MDLIX.

By Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, Knight, with the Continuation, by Alexander Viscount Kingston, to MDCLXXXVII. Printed at Glasgow, MDCCCXXIX.

The author belonged to an old Scotch family celebrated in the political history of their country, and it has been said of him that "in the literary world he was known by his history of the family of Seton, and Poems on several subjects." His mother's father was Lord Seton; and he piqued himself on being "a daughter's son of the said house," whose history and chronicle he wrote at the personal request of his cousin George, Lord Seton. Maitland was the first in that long list of family historians who have done so much to illustrate the antiquity and importance of the great houses of Scotland. This edition was privately printed for the members of the Maitland Club, for whom it was edited by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, the celebrated antiquary. A lady of high rank—descended, as he also was, from the Setons—writing to him, February 18, 1821, before he had undertaken to edit Maitland's History, says: "It has occurred to me that if . . . you were to publish their memoirs with notes, and with such prints, the book would sell well, and might be made a curious one as to Scotch domestic history and anecdotes relating to remarkable persons"; and she offers to make sketches for him. I have also another edition of the same work, with some differences and additions, printed at Edinburgh in 1830. These copies were given to my father by kinsmen when he

visited Scotland in 1855, being the first of our branch of the family to return there in over a century.

- II. *A History of the Family of Seton during Eight Centuries.*
By George Seton, Advocate, M.A. Oxon., etc. Two vols. Edinburgh, 1896.

The author of this copious record of the family is an old friend, the representative of the Cariston branch. It is a very large and profusely illustrated work of over one thousand pages. It has been a labor of love and of profound research; but as one who is honorably mentioned therein, I will say (without malice) that it contains some things that are important, many things that are useful, and everything that is superfluous.

- III. *Seton of Parbroath in Scotland and America.* Printed for private circulation. 12mo, pp. 28, 1890.

A little monograph rather hastily prepared. More time and study have enabled me to modify some of my views and correct some of my statements.

- IV. *The Olivestob Hamiltons.* By Rev. Arthur Wentworth Hamilton Eaton, B.A., New York. Privately printed, 1893.

A very interesting and well-written account of one branch of a princely family connected with the Setons.

- V. *Chart of the Descendants of John and Elizabeth Seton.*

It is carefully compiled by a member of the family and enriched with a large number of notes.

- VI. *Record of the Bayley Family in America.* By Guy Carleton Bayley, M.D., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

- VII. *Descendants of John Ogden.* 1640. By Henry Ogden, Esq., of New York.

- VIII. Descendants of Martinus Hoffman. B. 1640. D. 1671. With Notes. By Lindley Murray Hoffman, Esq., of New York.
- IX. Some Account of the Family of Prime of Rowley, Mass., with Notes on the Families of Platts and Jewett. By Temple Prime. Second edition (illustrated), New York, 1897.
- X. Descent of Comfort Sands and of his Children, with Notes on the Families of Ray, Thomas, Guthrie, Alcock, Palgrave, Cornell, Dodge, Hunt, and Jessup. By Temple Prime. Second edition, New York, 1897.

The author of these interesting, carefully compiled, and exquisitely printed family histories, Temple Prime, Esq., of Huntington, L. I., is my cousin, and a great-grandson, maternally, of Sir John Temple, Bart. He is a member of several learned societies, and an authority on genealogy, European and American. He has written a number of other works on his family connections with a modesty rare in one so well descended.

XI. The Green Book.

It is so called from the color of its binding, and contains Notes, Recollections, and Memoranda of the Seton Family, particularly in America. The earliest entry is 1797. Manuscript in my possession.

XII. The Brown Book.

Same reason as above; contains Notes and Memoranda made by me while visiting Scotland in 1855, 1861, 1889, and 1896. Manuscript in my possession.

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ARMS OF WILLIAM, FIRST LORD SETON.

(From the *Armorial de Gelre*, composed about 1369.)

This lord visited Jerusalem, and took an antelope's head for a crest, as a memorial of his travels and sport in the East.

Introduction.

'Tis opportune to look back upon old times and contemplate our forefathers.

—BROWNE: *Urn Burial*.

CHAPTER I.

THE Setons are essentially a Scottish family, and, like all the historical families of Scotland, are of Norman origin. It is, moreover, one of the few families in Great Britain which can be traced back to Normandy, and found established there before the Conquest of England; consequently it is one of the oldest families in Europe. The Normans derived their remote origin from that family of nations, the *Getae*, or Goths, which was spread out from the steppes of Central Asia to the shores of the Baltic. When Rollo, in the first quarter of the tenth century, entered into full possession of his dukedom, which henceforth proclaimed the origin of its conquerors and settlers in the name itself of Normandy, "a formal repartition of the ceded territory ensued," says Palgrave, "chieftains and soldiers taking or retaining their shares." It should be observed that nearly all the Norman nobility was of the same family stock as Duke Rollo, and, like him, descended from the Royal House of Norway, or Scandinavia. During the thirty years' reign of Richard the Good, A.D. 996-1026, a new combination of social elements was formed. "Henceforth," says Palgrave, "the Norman annals abound with those historical names rendered illustrious by the illusions of time and the blazonry

which imagination imparts. With few exceptions the principal baronial families of Normandy appeared during this reign." (*Hist. of Eng. and Norm.*, III., 28.) Thus Feudalism arose, an institution which is ignorantly associated in the modern mind with whatever was oppressive and degrading during the Middle Ages. Yet it found a certain class slaves, and it made them serfs; which means that, not being any longer attached to the person of a proprietor but to the soil, they were raised a degree in the social scale. Feudalism fostered courage, attachment to home, the spirit of disciplined subordination, and love of country. Montalembert, in the sixth volume of *Les Moines d'Occident*, touches on the advantages of this system from the standpoint of Religion, and consequently of Civilization. Writing the history of a family which belonged to the earliest feudal hierarchy, I consider the matter only from the side of genealogy and the personal positions arising out of it which thus became important to the destiny of families and even of nations, wars in those ages having almost always a dynastic origin. "As everything," says Hallam (*Middle Ages*, I., 189), "in the habits of society conspired with that prejudice which, in spite of moral philosophers, will constantly raise the profession of arms above all others, it was a natural consequence that a new species of aristocracy, founded upon the mixed considerations of birth, tenure, and occupation, sprung out of the feudal system. Every possessor of a fief was a gentleman, though he owned but a few acres of land, and furnished his slender contribution towards the equipment of a knight. . . . There still, however, wanted something to ascertain gentility of blood where it was not marked by the actual tenure of land. This was supplied by two innovations devised in the eleventh and twelfth centuries: the adoption of surnames and of armorial bearings. The first are commonly referred to the former age, when the nobility began to add the names of their estates to their own, or, hav-

ing in any way acquired a distinctive appellation, transmitted it to their posterity." For a family, therefore, to have a peculiar and a territorial designation in the eleventh century was proof of high rank. At an earlier period even the noblest had only personal surnames, which were generally descriptive of an individual quality, good or bad. Yet these were not surnames at all in our usual sense, although at a later age they were transmitted to descendants when surnames became common to all classes, and can generally be distinguished from those other names whose origin is essentially noble because it springs from the freehold of land, "the patent and passport of self-respect" among all races. It was, probably, first in Normandy and with the introduction of the feudal system that the use of transmissible surnames was established among the nobility. From there they were introduced into England and Scotland, and parts of Ireland, after the Conquest. Many of the followers of William had taken names from their castles or villages, which they used with the French prefix *de* before them. This *particule nobiliaire* was discarded in Great Britain with the disappearance of the Norman-French language, and it is in bad taste to try to revive it now. When the native Norse names of the earlier settlers in Normandy were modified to suit their new language—the language of civilization, which at that time was French, with a predominant Latin element—descriptive or incidental names were given or assumed. It was only later that, under the influence, as has been said, of chivalry and other feudal institutions, we find these hereditary and territorial surnames, indicative of landed property and patrician descent, which became so great a source of pride to men of Norman blood. It was once the fashion to speak of the Norman barons who fought at Hastings-Pevensey Beach, 1066—as adventurers from every part of France who, from a condition of homeless vagabonds, became suddenly possessed of lands and castles in England; but it is false,

although insisted upon by a distinguished English and an equally distinguished French historian, belonging both, however, to the School of Preconceived Notions. The learned author of the *Norman People* says: "As a whole, the native Norman nobility who were transferred in a body to England were not inferior in birth to those of any country in Europe." The followers of the Conqueror were the flower of the Norman nobility, and Normandy was the crown and glory of France and of Europe. Norman nobles had already left their impress on Naples, Sicily, Spain, and Russia. Then, again, it has been objected that their origin was recent and piratical, and the Vikings have been assailed by many vituperative names. They were not originally pirates from inclination and lust of gain, but from the political usurpation of the more powerful chieftains, which worked such a change in the life and character of the Northern people toward the end of the eighth century that the less fortunate but braver ones, scorning to endure oppression at home, naturally took to the sea, not as mere corsairs, but as men despoiled of their patrimony, and striving to find a resting-place and make a settlement in some other part of the world.* When these hardy Normans settled down in any country, they showed themselves as well adapted to the pursuits of peaceful industry as to those of war and rapine. They had a wonderful capacity for assimilation to the conditions of a higher culture than their own, and wherever they remained they soon became the most influential inhabitants. France, England, and Scotland are examples of this process on a great scale. Hence we agree with Burton, who says (*Hist. of Scot.*, II., 14): "In looking at the success

* We may recall as an extenuating circumstance what that grave judge, Lord Stowell, observed of the Buccaneers, whose spirit at one time approached to that of chivalry in point of adventure, and whose manner of life was thought to reflect no disgrace upon distinguished Englishmen who engaged in it.—SETON: *Essays*—"Italian Commerce in the Middle Ages," p. 41.

of the Normans, both social and political, as a historical problem, it has to be noted that we have no social phenomena in later times with which this one could be measured and compared. Coming from the rude North into the centre of Latin civilization, they at once took up all the civilization that was around them, and then carried it into higher stages of development."

CHAPTER II.

THE sword and spear, or lance, were the offensive weapons of the early Normans. They were called Free Arms, as being peculiarly appropriate to men of valor and high degree. The first of our family of whom there is any record bore the warrior-like name of PICOT, the Pikeman. We next find Picot, which is a name of profession, a descriptive name, associated with a place-name, Avenel—as though to say Oatlands—because the portion allotted to him in the distribution of territory among the followers of Rollo was rich agricultural land producing oats (*avena*, Lat. ; *avoine*, Fr.), the strengthening food of that fine breed of horses for which Normandy was famous.* Avenelle is in the immediate neighborhood of the *Pays de Perche*, which has given a name to those magnificent draught horses called Percherons, which have been so largely imported into the United States; and it is interesting to note, in this connection, that my father was the first American to introduce them for breeding purposes, sending two brood-mares and a stallion from near Chartres, in Eure et Loire, in August, 1856, to my brother William, who then owned property at Dixon, Lee County, Illinois.

* Thus, also, we find such place-names in Normandy as *Faverolles*, *Favard*, *Favary* (Jules Janin: *La Normandie*), derived from *faba*, Lat., *fève*, Fr., a bean, the *b* and *v* being—as in Spanish—interchangeable.

Afterward we come, in the early Norman records, to another local name attributed to Picot and to Avenel, which is *de Say*.

The family even at this early period branched out into two lines, that of Avenel and that of Say, both of which became baronial families in Normandy, in England, and in Scotland; but although the former was the senior branch, its fortunes were not equal to the junior, and in a little more than a couple of centuries it became extinct or so reduced as to be practically unknown. Duncan (*Hist. of the Dukes of Norm.*, published in 1839) tells us that "Say is near Argentan. The lords of this district took the name of Picot, and they are indifferently spoken of by the old chronicles as Picot simply, and Picot de Say." This, as regards the *name*, is an ætiological error. The lords of Say—which is a feudal designation—did not take the name of Picot, but quite the reverse; the Picots took the name of de Say, although their original name or sobriquet continued for some generations in the family, coupled with its later territorial one, until cast off altogether. As descriptive are less noble than territorial names, they are also less rare, because while only *one* family could have the name of a fief which was their estate, many families in no way related in blood might have the same name when it was one that of its nature could be common to many individuals. Say survives in only two peerage families in Great Britain; whereas Picot is represented in such ordinary names as Pigot, Pigott, Pike, Pick, Picket, Pigou, and other variations. An inspection of Burke's *General Armory* will show that the arms granted to or assumed by these people are generally "pickaxes," or "pike heads," or "pike staves," or simply "pikes"; and even when *fusils* are assigned to them there is no doubt that they were originally *lance heads*, a certain kind of which, lozenge-shaped, exactly resembles the figure called a "fusil" in heraldry. These are what the French call "Armes Par-

lantes," or canting arms, and are considered vulgar, although they are sometimes very old.

As our family was originally sprung from the House of Avenel, I will say something of this house before proceeding to the de Says and the de Say-tunes, de Sey-tounes, de Setons, Setons. Avenel was one of the great names of Normandy. The Avenels were lords of Biard, or Es-Biard, now *Les Biards*, on the River Sélune, in the Canton of Isigny, and the Arrondissement of Mortaine, of whose counts they were the hereditary seneschals. According to Vincent of Beauvais, a thirteenth-century author, they descended from Harold the Dane, a kinsman and companion-in-arms of Rollo, first Duke of Normandy. Hervé Avenel, Baron of Biars, confirmed a grant to Marmoutiers Abbey in 1035, and was probably brother of Osmeline Avenel, Lord of Say, who made grants to Saint Martin's, at Sééz, about 1030, which were confirmed by Picot Avenel, his son. In 1067 his sons Herveius (Hervé) de Biars and Sigebert are mentioned. William Avenel de Biars, seneschal to Robert, Count of Mortaine, was present at the battle of Hastings in 1066, along with others of his more immediate name and family. They figure on the Roll as:

Le Sieur Desbiars.

Avenel Desbiars.

Le Sieur Avenel de Viars.

Although he was poorly rewarded by the Conqueror and returned to Normandy, the family was numerous and eventually held great estates in England and Scotland. This William Avenel is probably the same who, in 1082, was a benefactor to the Abbey of Saint Pierre-de-la-Couture, at Mans, giving to it the patronage of a church. There was a "Church of Avenelles" in the viscounty of Exmes, an old town on the River Dives in the modern Department of Orne. In 1186 we find that Richard, brother of William Avenel, gave "tres acras terrae in Herrevillâ et aliam villam" to the Monastery

of Lessay, as appears in the Charter of King Henry II. and from the Bull of confirmation of Pope Urban III. Herrevilla was presumably a village founded by Hervé (Latinized *Herveius*) Avenel, and called for himself Hervéville—in Latin *Herveii villa*—and by corruption *Herrevilla*, as in the text. In 1191 William Avenel, lord of Les Biards and seneschal to the Count of Mortaine, is found father to Roland, Nicholas, and Oliver. A Ralph is also mentioned. The elder line of Avenel held Les Biards until the extinction of that branch, or perhaps main trunk, of the family in Normandy in 1258. There are Counts of Avenel among the French *noblesse* to-day; but although they bear the name—taken from the lands they have in some way acquired—they are a comparatively modern family. Sir Francis Turner Palgrave, treating of baronial castles in Normandy, gives Amfreville as the seat of the “Umfreviles, the Avenels, and many more” (Appendix III., 651), and also “BIARS: hence the Avenels and the Vernons. This family became very illustrious in England, and still more in Scotland.” In the thirteenth century Alice, heiress of Sir William Avenel, brought to the Vernons the vast estate of Haddon, in Derbyshire. Another branch, seated at Blackpool, in Devonshire, ended about 1450 in three co-heiresses.

In Scotland the Avenels held one of the most important baronies of the March, or Border. Robert Avenel, the first Lord of Eskdale, received his lands from King David I., whom he accompanied back from England to Scotland, like many other Anglo-Norman nobles, who there founded new families, which in some cases rose to greater eminence and lasted longer than the older ones of their kin who remained in the South. Robert de Avenel, in the reign of King Malcolm IV., gave the monks of Saint Mary’s Abbey, at Melrose, parcels of land in Eskdale, reserving to himself the right of hunting the wild boar, deer, or stag, also a yearly rent of

five marks. One of these marks he remitted for maintaining a light to burn perpetually before the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the death of his wife Sybilla he remitted the other four marks, to be expended upon four pittances for the monks, yearly, and at fixed seasons. He entered this same monastery in his old age, and died in 1185. His son, Ger-



SEAL OF SIR ROBERT AVENEL.

(From a Melrose charter.)

Supplying the words effaced, the inscription would read, *Sigillum Roberti de Avenel.*

vaise, confirmed his father's grant; but Roger, the grandson, disputed about it with the monks, sent his cattle into their grounds, pulled down their houses, and broke their fences. Both parties met at Linton, in 1235, before King Alexander II., when it was decided that the pastures belonged to the monks, but that they were not to hunt there with hounds nor allow others to do so, nor were they to cut down trees in which hawks and falcons built their nests. Like all the great

nobles of that warlike age, the lord of Eskdale paid much attention to the breeding of horses, and had an extensive stud in that valley. Some time between 1236 and 1249 John, the son of Gervaise Avenel, made over to the Monastery of Inchcolme twenty-six acres of land in his territory of Dud-dinston, within the barony of Abercorn; and in King Alexander II.'s Charter for the foundation of Pluscardyn Priory in 1236, Roger Avenel is a witness. The principal line finished in an heiress in 1243, when Roger's great domain passed to his son-in-law Henry de Graham of Dalkeith. Thus ended the name of "Avenel, remembered only in tradition, or embalmed by one who could control and direct even the current of popular tradition" (Innes, *Scotland in the Middle Ages*, p. 128, in allusion to Scott's novel of "The Monastery"). The Duke of Montrose, head of the House of Graham, is the representative of the senior line of the Avenels.

CHAPTER III.

SAY was a fief in Normandy which came to the Picots and the Avenels, and gave a name to a distinguished baronial family sprung from them. In Stapleton's *Magni Rotuli Scaccarii Normanniae sub Regibus Angliae*, with Observations on the Rolls of the Norman Exchequer, published in 1844, the fief is designated Say, Sai, and Seye. It is elsewhere found written Saie. The Honour of Say was on the River Orne, near Argentan, about twenty-six miles northwest of Alençon. The learned authors of *Gallia Christiana* tell us, in describing the Diocese of Séez, that its earliest Latin name, like that of the Gallic tribe which inhabited the territory, was *Saii*, and it is so set down in Sprüner's *Hand Atlas . . . des Mittelalters*, 1854. I would naturally suppose that the little village or

castle which forms our root-name had some connection, now unknown, with the mother-town, or with the ancient tribe which gave its name to the metropolis. On the map of old Normandy prefixed to Taylor's *Wace*, Say is located in the district of Exmois, now represented by the city of Exmes, *chef-lieu de canton*, between Argentan and Séez. Say, in Normandy, is what the Germans would call the *Schloss-stamm* of our race. The earliest mention of any of the family with this appellation is that of Picot Avenel de Say, living A.D. 1030 under Robert, sixth Duke of Normandy. His son, Robert Fitz-Picot (*i.e.*, the son—*filz* corrupted to *fitz*—of Picot), Lord of Aunay, was co-founder of Saint Martin of Séez, in 1060. The original donation from the Chartulary of the Diocese of Séez is given in *Gallia Christiana*, XI., pp. 152, 153, Ed. Palmé, 1874, as follows:

“ Notum sit omnibus quia dominus Abbas Robertus, faventibus omnibus fratribus coenobii Sancti Martini Sagi, in capitulo ejusdem coenobii dedit Roberto de Sayo qui cognominabatur *Picot*, et Adeloyae uxori suae, cum summa devotione petentibus societatem et beneficium totius congregationis sicut uni monachorum ipsius coenobii, et similiter Roberto atque Henrico filiis suis : Ita quidem ut si aliquis ipsorum monachus voluerit effici, efficietur in monasterio Sancti Martini Sagiensis. Qui vero ex illis omnibus in saeculari habitu morietur, in coemeterio Sancti Martini, ut monachus per omnia susceptus sepeliatur. Ipsi vero in eodem capitulo pro hac largissima concessione et pro animarum tam suarum quam parentum suorum, perpetua salvatione dederunt et perpetuo concesserunt praedicto sancto et fratribus suis praedicti coenobii monachis, aedificium matris Picot cum virgulto quod habebat juxta ecclesiam Sanctae Mariae *de Vron* et decem acras terrae in parochia ejusdem ecclesiae, et terram ad hortum unum sufficientem, quae terra erat in pratis, et decimam duorum molendinorum, quorum unum est supra Olnam et alterum supra Uram ; dederunt etiam prata totius insulae de Atheis, et unam piscatoriam quae dicitur *de Louis*, et unam acram prati in pratis de Juvigneio, et duas acras terrae in ipsa villula quae erat de dote Adeloyae uxoris suae, et cum his datis de propriis rebus concesserunt quod Osmelinus de Sayo dedit Sancto Martino in eodem capitulo et eodem die, tertiam partem totius ecclesiae de Sayo in omnibus redditibus altaris et decima cum duabus acris terrae ; et ipse Osmelinus et uxor ejus Avitia et omnes antecessores sui recepti sunt in praedicti monasterii fraterna societate. Hoc totum viderunt et audierunt Guaschelinus *de Vron* et Robertus filius

Garini *Pillepot*, et Radulphus presbyter *de Trou*; cum his quoque concesserunt ecclesias *de Trou* cum decimis et quatuor acris terrae et dimidia cum terra sacerdotis, quod totum dederat Osmelinus qui cognominabatur Avenellus, Sancto Martino, pro salute animae suae et antecessorum suorum; concesserunt etiam quod Gaufredus filius Oderelli dederat Sancto Martino quicquid decimae habebat in parochia *de Trou*, pro qua fundacione habuit ipse Gaufredus cum beneficio concesso monasterii triginta solidos cenomannenses; adhuc quoque concesserunt quod Guaschelinus *de Trou* dederat Sancto Martino quicquid decimae habebat in parochia *de Trou* et de Sayo, nihil sibi reservans, cum duabus acris terrae; et pro hac donacione cum concesso monasterii beneficio habuit quatuordecim solidi, cenomannenses et unum pullum equorum pro decem et octo solidis cenomannensibus, teste ipso et Radulpho presbytero, et fratre ejusdem Roberti, et Christiano de Fureis etiam concedentibus: Dedit Hugo de Juvigneyo Sancto Martino medietatem ipsius ecclesiae, cujus alteram medietatem nos habemus de dono *Picot* et uxoris ejus Adeloyae, et unam acram prati pro concesso sibi beneficio monasterii, cum viginti solidis census. Signum Rogerii comitis, signum *Picot*, signum Roberti filii ejus, signum Henrici filii *Picot*, signum Adeloyae uxoris *Picot*, signum Ricardi Capellani."

The italics are those of *Gal. Chr.*

We now come to that great enterprise which brought de Says and many other barons across the Narrow Sea. The Conquest of England by the Normans is the most important event in history since the fall of Rome. Nothing in the Middle Ages can be compared to it for grandeur of conception, completeness of result, and abiding influence on the world. The Rolls, as they are called, of the knights who fought at Hastings have an antiquarian and genealogical interest unequalled by anything similar commemorating success in arms. There are variations, omissions, and probably repetitions in these famous lists of names. Say is found in Holinshed but not in Duchesne, in Leland but not at Dives, although "Roger Picot" figures there. Dives is a little town, once a seaport of Normandy, in whose harbor William first assembled his fleet for the invasion of England; and on a wall in the old Church of Notre Dame are inscribed the names of the knights who gathered there at his summons. More reliable, however, than any of these is the metrical poem on Rollo and the

Dukes of Normandy, called the *Roman du Rou*, by Master Robert Wace, a Norman cleric, who wrote within a century after the Conquest. There are two good editions of Wace. The first is in French, with "very valuable notes" by Fred-eric Pluquet, published at Rouen in 1827. The second is in English, and is called *Chronicle of the Norman Conquest, translated with Notes and Illustrations*, by Edgar Taylor, F.S.A., London, 1837. The following is the original passage, as it appears in Wace's Norman-French, in which he describes the engagement between the two armies and introduces de Say:

" Cil de Vitrie et d'Urinie
 Cil de Moubrai è de Saie
 E li Sire de la Ferté
 Maint Engleiz unt acraventé [assommé]
 Grant mal i firent li plusor [la plupart]
 E mult i perdirent des lor."

Taylor translated the passage in prose:

"The Lords of Vitrie and Urinie, de Moubrai and Saie, and the sire de la Ferté, smote down many of the English, most of whom suffered grievously and many of them were killed."

Pluquet's note on Saie is: "Say près Argentan. Les seigneurs de ce lieu prenaient le surnom ou nom de famille de Picot, sous lequel ils sont quelquefois cités sans autre désignation." Of all the lists of barons who shared in the glory of that day, the most renowned in succeeding ages was the one with some six hundred names of Normans attached, long preserved in the Monastery of Saint Martin, which the Conqueror founded on the field of Hastings, and which was completed during the reign of his son, William Rufus, in 1094. It is called from this circumstance the Roll of Battle Abbey; and here in after ages the monks displayed before the nobles of England and Scotland that long and famous register of companions of the Conqueror from whom they deduced their lineage:

“There is no pride like the pride of ancestry, for it is a blending of all emotions” (Disraeli).

The late Duchess of Cleveland, inheriting the literary taste of the Stanhopes, published in three volumes, in 1889, a magnificent work on *Battle Abbey Roll*, in which the families and descendants of all the great Norman barons are described.

CHAPTER IV.

DUGDALE tells us, in his *English Baronage*, that there were of old two considerable families named Say which derived from the same Norman original. One remained in England, and the other, as we shall see, settled in Scotland. The first time the name occurs in any public document in England after the Conquest is in 1083, when Picot de Say, whose real fore-name was Robert (for he was one of the two sons of Robert de Say and his wife Adelaide, of the Charter of Saint Martin of Sééz), is mentioned as one of the principal persons in Shropshire, where he held no less than twenty-nine lordships. He is the ancestor of all the Says in England and Scotland, and was a baron of England during the Conqueror's reign. He also held the Castle of Marigny with other possessions in Normandy, and continued, like many others, to be represented in both countries. Clun was the largest of his manors in Shropshire, and gave its name to his barony. In 1083 he was summoned, with other chief men of the county, to attend the dedication of Shrewsbury Abbey. His son Henry succeeded him, and was followed by Helias. Helias left an only daughter Isabel, Lady of Clun, who married William Fitz-Alan, Governor of Shrewsbury and Sheriff of the County. She died in 1199. By descent from her the Dukes of Norfolk inherit this very ancient barony. Other branches of the family became numerous. Those described by Eyton in Shropshire

alone form no inconsiderable list. Within thirty years of Domesday, Theodoric de Say, a cadet of the Baron of Clun, was enfeoffed by Roger de Lacy of Stoke, afterward called Stoke-Say, which preserves in its Anglo-Saxon prefix—a not uncommon one before old English place-names—the idea of ground selected for defensive purposes: *stoc* being the root-word for a palisade of wood, a stockade, and carries the mind back to those troubled years immediately succeeding the Conquest, when a terrible cry went through the land:

“ Haec mea sunt ; veteres migrate coloni.”

Then the Normans, detested by the natives, had to throw up hasty breastworks and timber fortifications around their dwellings, veritable hill forts mostly, until they had leisure to erect towers and castles of stone. I visited the grand old ruins of Stoke-Say with Charles Compton Seton, Esq., of Heath House, Shropshire, with whom I was staying, in 1896. A history of it has been published by the Rev. J. D. Latouche. This Theodoric de Say was a good man (for a Norman), and gave certain lands in Shropshire to the Abbey of Saints Peter and Paul, at Shrewsbury; and even Picot de Say, who cruelly oppressed the Saxons, appears as an ecclesiastical benefactor in 1092. He erected a church and monastery in honor of Saint Giles within the bounds of Camboritum; and strangely as the building has been disfigured in later times, some small relics of the work of the rapacious sheriff still survive. (Freeman, *Norm. Conq.*, IV., 149.) This was, doubtless, an act of reparation and a sign of repentance for his iniquities, made, perhaps, at the suggestion of his pious wife, the Lady Hugolina.

Hugh de Say, son of Hugh Fitz-Osbern and Eustachia de Say, took his mother's name, being a younger son—his brother was Osbert Fitz-Hugh—and eventually succeeded to the great inheritance of Ricard's Castle, in Herefordshire, which derived its name from Richard Scrope, a baron in the reign

of Edward the Confessor and Hugh's paternal grandfather. Many other notices of de SAYS are found scattered about in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in England. Thus we come across a William de Say who married Agnes, daughter of Hugh de Grentemesnil; a Gervasia de Say; a Margaret, daughter of Hugh de Say, and wife of Hugh de Ferrières, who died in 1205; a Robert de Say, who received from King Henry III. a grant of the manor of Stratfield, in Hampshire, which then became known as Stratfield-Sayre. It eventually came to the Dabridgecourts, and was purchased in this century by the British Parliament for the Duke of Wellington and his heirs. In Normandy the family continued to flourish while maintaining its English connection. There we find that Godfrey de Say, in 1083, witnessed a charter to the Church of the Blessed Trinity, at Séz; that on July 15, 1131, Jordan de Say and Lucy his wife founded an abbey at Aunay or Aulnay, near Caen, which was one of his lordships; that his heiress, named Agnes de Say, carried the estates into the family of Hommet, by her marriage with the Constable Richard de Hommet. Jordan, eighteenth Bishop of Lisieux (now a suppressed see), and a member of the powerful family of the Lords of Hommet, witnessed in 1194, when Archdeacon of the Cathedral, a charter of his brother William de Sai, a benefactor of the Abbey of Aunay-sur-Odon (in the present Department of Calvados), twenty-one miles from Bayeux, which Jordan and Lucy de Say had founded over sixty years before. The site of this Benedictine monastery was changed, and its possessions increased by Richard de Hommet, Constable of the English king, as Duke of Normandy, who enumerates in his charter the earlier donations of his kinsman de Say before setting forth his own. The document, printed entire in *Gallia Christiana*, Vol. XI., p. 443, is interesting as showing what were some of the possessions of the de SAYS in the twelfth century.

Ingelram de Say and other adherents of King Stephen, in his dispute for the crown with the Empress Maud, encountered in Lent, A.D. 1138, Reginald de Dunstanville and Baldwin de Redvers with their followers outside of the Castle of Homme, and quickly coming to close quarters defeated them and took many prisoners. He was himself taken prisoner at the battle of Lincoln in 1141, an episode that directs us back to England; but as the Scottish branch had been already some years planted in the northern kingdom, I will note but few things more about the English Says. Geoffrey de Say was in arms against King John, and was one of the twenty-five barons appointed to enforce the observance of *Magna Charta*. In 1382 Elizabeth de Say became the heiress of this ancient barony; but dying childless a few years later, it fell into abeyance—as it still continues—between the descendants of her aunts Idonea de Say, Lady Clinton, and Joan de Say, Lady Fiennes, who carry on the family in the female line. The Setons of Scotland, and specifically the Setons of *Parbrath*, are the only representatives of the once great House of Say in unbroken male descent. One of the Fiennes was created Lord Saye and Sele in 1447, and is that unfortunate nobleman, “Lord Say,” who degraded himself, it seems to me, by “pleading so well for his life,” as in Shakespeare’s *Henry IV.*, Pt. 2. His descendant was advanced to be Viscount Saye and Sele. He is badly spoken of by Lord Clarendon, in his *History of the Rebellion*, who, with the instincts of a man of recent origin suddenly raised to affluence and rank, refers to his poverty and sneers at his claim of ancient lineage in these words: “The Lord Viscount Say, a man of a close and reserved nature, of a mean and narrow fortune, of great parts, and of the highest ambition.” Again: “Lord Say . . . no man valued himself more upon his title, or had more ambition to make it greater and to raise his fortune, which was but moderate for his title. He was of a proud,

morose, and sullen nature; conversed much with books, having been bred a scholar, and (though nobly born) a fellow of New College in Oxford; to which he claimed a right by the alliance he pretended to have from William of Wickham, the founder; which he made good by such an unreasonable pedigree, through so many hundred years, half the time whereof extinguishes all relation of kindred." The Viscount is remembered, after a fashion, in the little town of Saybrook, Conn., which was originated in 1635, and named in compliment "to its two noble patrons," Lords Say and Brook, who both figured ridiculously in a "proposition that an hereditary order of nobility be established in the province."

An Old Family.

CHAPTER I.

SAY-TONS, 1107-1124.

LET us now consider the SAYS and their descendants in North Britain. Scotland, so justly proud of her aristocracy, claims the proudest ancestry from the stranger. The Gael has furnished little to the Scottish peerage. Its noblest names—Bruce, Stewart, Sinclair, Hamilton, Montgomerie, Gordon, Lindsay, Campbell, and Seton, to mention only some of the many that give poetry to Scotland's streams, dignity to her towers, honor to her annals; whose cry has resounded in battle from Bannockburn to Flodden, whose knightly banners have led on to victory with "fierce native daring" or have succumbed to defeat with heroic resignation—all belong to families which spring from the settlers in Normandy and the conquerors of England. Several, perhaps many, Norman adventurers in Scotland continued to hold, or later inherited, estates in England. This explains how they sometimes gave their allegiance to one side and sometimes to the other, in the disputes between the two kingdoms, as, from the standpoint of feudal law, both sides had claims upon them. Such a state of affairs bred serious consequences to the fortunes and persons of nobles of Norman descent holding lands in either kingdom.

The first appearance of a de Say in Scotland was in the reign of King Alexander I. (1107-1124), and it antedated by

some years the peaceful invasion of Anglo-Normans under his brother and successor, David I. Then they came to the number of at least a thousand, to whom the king distributed lands which they settled with their followers. The particular cause of de Say's establishing himself in Scotland thus early was a dispute between a baron and his suzerain, something quite common in that turbulent age. Robert Fitz-Picot was Baron of Brunne, in Cambridgeshire, in 1086, where "the moat of his castle and a few other traces of the building yet remain." His oldest son, Robert Fitz-Picot, the viscount, forfeited the barony for rebellion against King Henry I., who granted it to Pain Peverell, said to be the husband of Robert's sister. "A younger brother of Robert, Saher de Say, took refuge in Scotland and obtained grants from Alexander I., named after him Say-ton. From him descended the Lords Sey-ton or Seton, Earls of Winton," etc. (Cleveland, *Battle Abbey Roll*.) The same account is given in Chalmers's *Caledonia*; and the Irish genealogist and writer, Sir Bernard Burke, says: "The first of the great house of Seton established in North Britain was Secher de Say, who had a grant of lands in East Lothian, which being called 'Saytun' (the dwelling of Say), gave rise to a name and family which became pre-eminently distinguished in the annals of Scotland." In Francisque Michel's *Écossais en France et Français en Écosse*, "the Setons who derive from the Norman family of Say" are mentioned among the most important Scotch families of Anglo-Norman origin. Saher de Say would probably travel north with the usual retinue of a knight at that period, which consisted of one or two men-at-arms, clad in mail like their leader, and mounted, and several archers on foot. The Scottish Court had favored men of Norman race ever since the reign of Malcolm III., or *Cannmore*, when their influence first began to spread through Scotland the feudal usages and civilization of the Continent. The knight or baron, having got his grant

of land, proceeded forthwith to build a castle and a church—both of rude materials and of ruder architecture—a mill, and a brew-house, and huts for the serfs; and thereby formed about himself a hamlet which in the practice of the age was called the *TON* of the lord. Hence such old Scotch names, besides our own, as *Hamil-ton*, *Livings-ton*, *Johns-ton*, *Edmons-ton*. “They have called their lands by their names” (Ps. *xlvi*. 12), marking them as their own.

The place where *Saher de Say* rested is between *Tranent* and the sea, some ten miles below *Edinburgh*; and it continued to be the principal habitation of his family for over six hundred years.

It were great pleasure to a man to know the origin and beginning of his house and surname, and how long it has stood, with good actions and virtue of his predecessors; and it were right profitable, because when a man remembers the good beginning of his house and surname, the long standing thereof, the honorable and virtuous actions of his predecessors, it will give occasion to every man to preserve and maintain the house that his forefathers have acquired, and he will be the more loath to do anything that may be to the hurt or decay of the same.—*MATTLAND's Prologue*.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1100-1258.

I. THE founder of the long line of Scotch Setons was, as has been said, a Norman refugee, Saher de Say. His peculiar fore-name, which is found written Secher, Seyer, Saier, and Sair, is only a corruption or vulgar rendering of *Saire*, a hermit-saint in the Diocese of Rouen, whose cult was popular among the Norman nobility. In those times proper names were all written phonetically and just as the ear caught them, which accounts for the numerous forms under which the same name will appear, and sometimes in the very same document. The village and church of Saint Saire, with fourteenth-century glass windows and an ancient crypt containing a well, is about five miles from the town of Neuchâtel-en-Bray. Saint Saire is perpetuated as a patronymic in Sayers, Sears, and cognate forms which are common family names in England and America, and are of Norman, although not of baronial origin; unless, perhaps, Sears be a corruption not of the Norman, but of the Scoto-Celtic *Saint Serf* (Lat. *Servanus*), popularly called "Saint Sear," who did so much for the early religious culture of the western districts of Fife.

II. The son of Saher de Say is known in our family history as Dougall de Say-toun. His Christian name is unknown, as he was usually described by a familiar appellation in the language of the people around him. The Normans wore a strong coat of mail, which made them objects of dread and wonder to the Britons, Saxons, Picts, and Celts, in whose ancient songs they were called Du-gall, the "Black Strangers," from the appearance they made when encased in armor. Dougall

de Saytoun, then, literally means "The Black Stranger (lord) of the town of Say." He flourished in the reign of Alexander I., A.D. 1107-1124, and married Janet, daughter of Robert de Quincy, and not of Roger, who lived nearly a century later. The baronial family of Quincy, which derives from *Quincé* in Maine, rose almost suddenly to great importance both in England and Scotland, and in two centuries more was only a memory and extinct. Richard de Quincy came in at the Conquest. His son Robert, of whom above, married Maud de St. Liz, daughter of Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, and of Maud, or Matilda, elder of the two daughters of Waltheof, son of Syward the Saxon Earl of Northumberland, and of Judith, niece to the Conqueror on his mother's side. Simon was a Crusader, and died in France in 1115, on his return from the Holy Land, leaving besides this daughter two sons, of whom one, named Waltheof or Waldeve, was Abbot of Melrose. He is honored as a saint on August 3d.*

III. Seher de Setoune succeeded to Dougall, his father. "Whom he married I find not certainly in any register of the house," says honest Maitland. He lived in the time of King David I. (1124-1153).

IV. Philip de Setoune succeeded to Seher, his father. He also made a strong alliance by marrying Helen (sometimes called Alice—she probably had both names: one given in baptism and the other at confirmation), only daughter of Waldeve or Waltheof, fifth Earl of Dunbar and March, by



DOUGALL DE SAY-TOUN.
(From the Touch Armorial Tree.)

* See his Life in Alban Butler, who calls him Saint Walthen or Waltheof.

Aelina, his wife. This great family, once the most powerful in Scotland, is now represented by the Marquess of Bute. Philip got a charter from King William the Lion, in 1169, confirming to him certain lands, which remained in possession of his descendants for more than five hundred years. It is one of the oldest Scottish charters in existence, and is mentioned with enthusiasm by the learned Cosmo Innes (*Scotland in the Middle Ages*, p. 20), who says: "I could not give you a better specimen of one of those ancient simple conveyances than a charter of William the Lion, a grant to the ancient family of Seton. It conveys three great baronies, confers all baronial privileges, fixes the *reddendo* at one knight's service, expresses the formal authentication of a goodly array of witnesses, and is comprised in seven short lines. The original is in possession of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton." Here follows a copy:

"Willielmus Dei grat. Rex Scotorum, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vice comitibus, ministris et omnibus probis (hominibus) totius terrae nostrae, clericis et laicis, salutem. Sciatis praesentes et futuri me concessisse, et hac carta mea confirmasse, Phillipo de Seytune terram quae fuit patris sui, scilicet Seytune, et Wintune, et Winchelburgh, tenendam sibi et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis in feodo et haereditate; in bosco et plano, in terris et aquis, in pratis et pascuis et in omnibus earundem terrarum justis pertinentiis; cum sacca et socca, tholl et them, et infangthief, cum furca et fossa; libere, quiete, plenarie, et honorifice, per servitium unius militis. Testibus D. Davide fratre meo, comite Dunecano justiciario, Ricardo de Morvill constabulario, Waltero Olefer justiciario, Alano dapifero, Waltero de Berclay camerario, Willielmo de Lind., Ricardo de Humphrville, Joanne de London; Apud Striviling."

Some of the barbarously Latinized words used in this charter are derived from the Saxon, and are common terms of feudal law. They should be explained. *Sacca et socca* signify the full right of holding court and administering justice in one's own lordship or barony; *tholl et them*, the privilege of holding a market and exercising jurisdiction over villeins attending it; *infangthief*, the right of summary judgment on

thieves taken in the seigniory of the lord; *furca et fossa*, execution by gibbet and pit, male criminals being hung, and females drowned in a well or pit filled with water.*

V. Alexander(1) de Setoun succeeded his father Philip, who died in 1179. He married Jean, daughter of Walter Berkeley or Barclay, the same who had witnessed his father's charter—chamberlain to the king—an office of great influence and dignity. He subscribed a charter given by Secher de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, in England, his kinsman, to the Church of Saint Mary of Newbattle in the thirteenth century, which is interesting because it contains the earliest mention of coal-mining in Scotland, an industry since so largely developed in the Lothians. The monks were the pioneers in this, as in many other discoveries and improvements of benefit to mankind. The use of coal, long unknown in Italy, is mentioned as something wonderful by Æneas Sylvius, afterward Pope Pius II., who visited Scotland in the fifteenth century. He says in his *Commentaries*: "A sulphurous stone dug from the earth is used by the people for fuel." Sir Alexander died in 1211.

VI. Bertrand or Bertram de Setoun succeeded to Alexander, his father, and married Margaret, daughter of William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, Great Justiciar of Scotland. Robert de Commynes, whose patronymic became corrupted, like so many other grand old Norman names, and was finally turned into Comyn, Cumin, and Cumming, received the Earldom of Northumberland from William the Conqueror in 1068, and was the founder of a family at once unfortunate and renowned in Scottish history; for, while having great possessions in England, it forfeited lands and title and fell from its high estate in Scotland. Buchan was one of the old Celtic maormordoms, made earldoms at a later and more civilized period, and was, early in the thirteenth century, brought into

* See Ducange, *Glossarium ad Scriptores Mediae et Infimae Latinitatis*.

this family by an heiress, Marjory, only child of Fergus. After passing successively to several branches of the royal Stewarts, and by heiresses into the families of Douglas and Erskine, it is now held by the last—Earl of Buchan and Lord Cardross—who carries in his shield the feudal arms of the earldom; but, as we shall see later on, when we come to the Heraldry of the Setons, the same were used with far more reason by the Earls of Winton, and are still borne as “arms of pretence” by the Earls of Winton of the second creation, who are also Earls of Eglinton. The only family in which the name as well as the arms continue, is Gordon-Cumming of Altyre, Bart. The present Lady Gordon-Cumming is an American.

Bertrand received from his kinsman Patrick de Dunbar, Earl of March, a grant of the lands of Ruchlaw, which was confirmed by the king at Stirling on February 22, 1172. He died about 1230, leaving two sons: Adam, of whom below, and Alexander, who witnessed the confirmation of a charter to the burgh of Glasgow by King Alexander II., dated November 22, 1225. He is probably the same who, as witness to another and later charter, is styled “Dominus Alexander de Settone, Miles.”

VII. ADAM DE SETOUNE. He succeeded his father Bertram, and is described by Maitland as “ane maister clerk”; *i.e.*, a well-read man. In that age, when war and the chase occupied almost all the time of nobles, it was an exception, and reckoned a great accomplishment for one of them to be a scholar; and when this happened, the family chronicles always mention it as something to be proud of. We know that King Henry I. of England was surnamed “Beauclerk” for this reason. A charter is extant of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, “Adamo de Seton,” in 1246, anent the marriage of the heiress of Alan de Fausyde—*de maritagio haeredis Alani de Faside*—which is quoted by Sir Robert Sibbald in his

History of Fife. Adam de Setoune married Margaret Gifford, daughter to Hugh de Gifford, Lord Yester, a neighboring baron, sprung from an ancient and famous Anglo-Norman family whose title and estate now belong to the Marquess of Tweeddale, his descendant, through the marriage of Sir Thomas Hay of Locherwort with Johanna, eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir Hugh Gifford of Yester. The original "Goblin Hall," described in *Marmion*, is still a part of this old, ivy-clad castle, now in ruins and but a few miles from Seton. Adam died in the reign of King Alexander III. (1249-1292), but the year is not known. He left, besides a son and successor, a daughter, who married Sir William de Keith, ancestor of the great family of the Keiths, Earls Marischal of Scotland. This lady, "who was," says Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, "of a gallant race, seems to have infused a new spirit into the Keiths." Her husband died before 1290. By him she had three sons, one of whom, Philip, was a priest and rector of Biggar, in Lanarkshire.

VIII. SIR CHRYSTELL or CHRISTOPHER DE SETON (I). He succeeded his father Adam, and married Maud, daughter of Ingelram Percy, Lord Topcliff in Yorkshire. The illustrious family of Percy derived its descent from one of the Norman chieftains (William de Percy) who accompanied the Conqueror to England in 1066. The line of Percy is traced back in Normandy to the time of Rollo, first duke, in 912. Alexander Sinclair, in his *Remarks on the Far Descended and Renowned Title of Lord Percy*, tells us that: "Topcliff, in Yorkshire, came into the family at the Conquest." Sir Christopher was a very pious man, "more given to devotion than to worldliness," says Maitland; and another family chronicler tells us that he was a man who loved neither strife nor wrong, but rather to read and to pray. He was a considerable benefactor of the Church, particularly out of the estates in England, which he administered during his father's lifetime. His

brother settled also in that part of England in which many Scoto-Normans (originally Anglo-Normans) were large land-owners, and is described as "Sir John Seton of Seton, in Yorkshire." Dugdale mentions in those northeastern parts of England an Ivo de Seton and a "Capella de Seton," and the *villa et territorium de Seton*. Camden (*Britannia*) names Seton, in Northumberland, as part of the barony of De-la-Vall in the thirteenth century; and "Seton Delavell," as also "Monk-Seton," is plainly marked in the superb collection of maps in the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* of William and John Blaeu, published at Amsterdam in 1648. These names of places are *now* mostly written Seaton, but it was not so formerly; and the old feudal barons Delaval—"of the Vale"—were originally Setons-Delaval and an early offshoot of our ancient family. It was probably from one of Chrystell de Seton's donations that Pope Innocent IV. confirmed (as in Dugdale's *Monasticon*) at Lyons, in 1245, to the Prior of the Monastery of Saint James of Wartry *Grangiam de Seton cum terris, pratis, pascuis, nemoribus, piscariis, et omnibus pertinentiis suis*. He died in old age, before 1270:

"The knight's bones are dust,
And his good sword rust;
His soul is with the Saints, I trust."

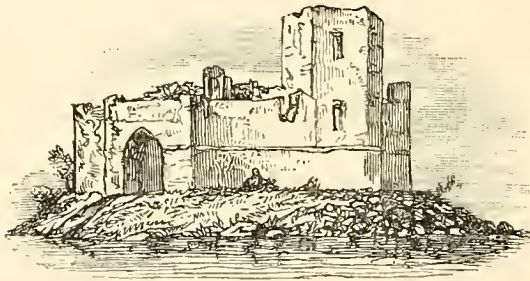
IX. SIR CHRISTOPHER SETON (2). Sir Christopher Seton succeeded his pious father, and married Agnes, daughter of Patrick, Earl of March. He was a valiant knight, and did many brave deeds against the English when the crown of Scotland was in dispute between Bruce and Balliol. He was a friend and companion of the national hero, Sir William Wallace, and when driven off his own lands by the enemy, took refuge with forty followers in Jedburgh Forest, "ay awating his tyme contrare the Englishmen," says Maitland. He was finally killed at the battle of Dillicarew, on the 12th of June, 1298, leaving two sons, Christopher and John.

X. SIR CHRISTOPHER SETON (3). Sir Christopher Seton III. succeeded his unfortunate but gallant father in these troublous times of the War of Independence. He was knighted by King Robert Bruce, and for his courtesy and valor was called by the common people, with whom he was a favorite, *Good Sir Chrystell*. He is mentioned by Lord Hailes (*Annals*, II., 2) as one of the twenty "chief associates of Bruce in his arduous attempts to restore the liberties of Scotland." He is there styled Christopher Seton *of Seton*; for with the more perfect amalgamation of races in that kingdom, and the consequent decline of Norman influence with the Norman language, the French *de*—the *particule nobiliare* of feudal possession—fell into disuse, and a new mode of appellation arose. When a family and the estate bore the same name, and, as was usually the case, the place gave its name to the owner, the Scottish manner of expression is *of that ilk*; as, for instance, "Fawside of that Ilk," *i.e.*, of that same place; but when the estate, on the contrary, derived its name from the surname of the owner—a more unusual case—the Scottish manner was to use both names together, as "Seton of Seton." This was more distinguished; and Lord Hailes, as above, shows his perfect acquaintance with these little points of Scotch etiquette and pride. In 1301, when Sir Christopher was twenty-three years old, he married Lady Christian Bruce, sister of the heroic Robert. She was the daughter of Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale, and of Margaret, heiress of Niel, Earl of Carrick. At the disastrous battle of



SIR CHRISTOPHER
SETON'S TWO-
HANDED SWORD.

Methven, near Perth, on June 19, 1306, soon after Bruce's coronation, the Scottish chiefs were defeated by Aylmer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, and "the king was thrice unhorsed, and once so nearly taken, that the captor, Sir Philip De Mowbray, called aloud that he had the new-made king, when Sir Christopher Seton felled Mowbray to the earth and rescued his master." * The large two-handed sword, wielded on this occasion by our common ancestor, is now in the possession of George Seton, Esq., of Edinburgh, Representative of the



RUINS OF LOCH DOON CASTLE, AYRSHIRE.

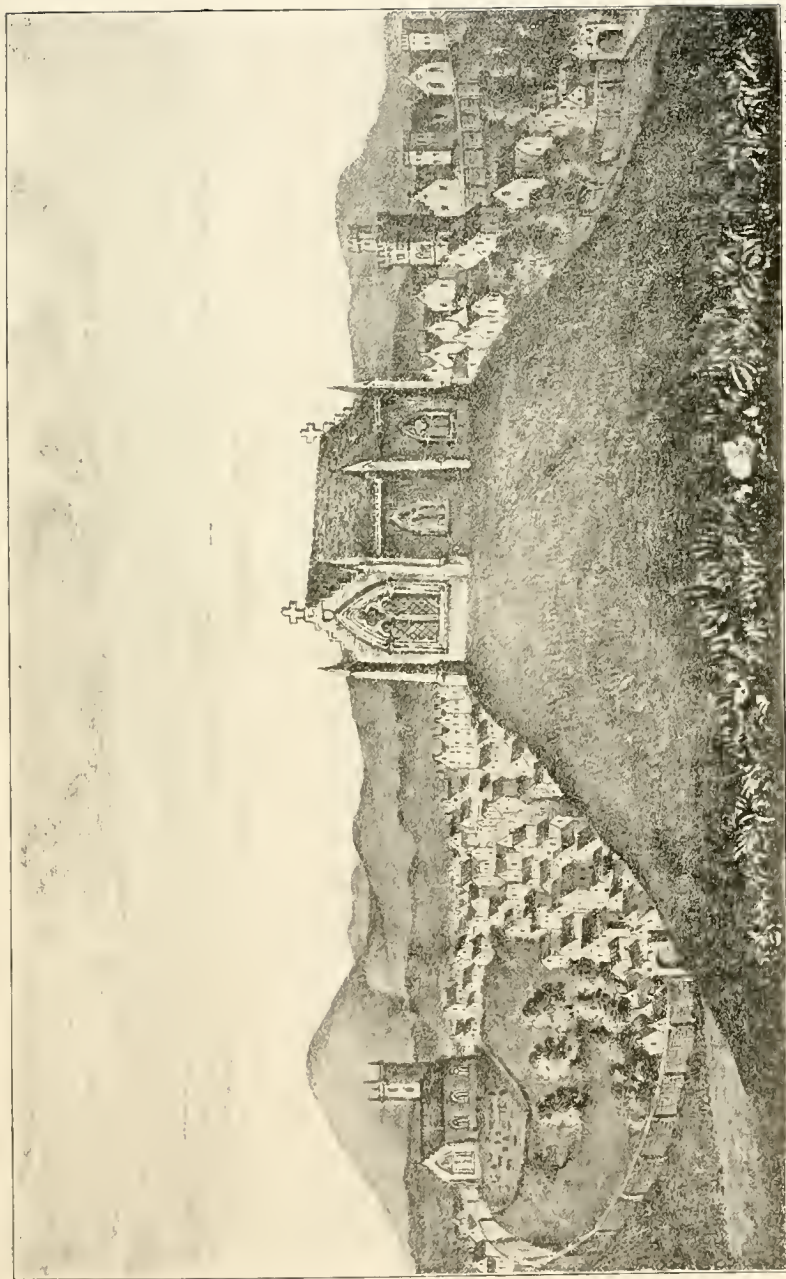
Setons of Cariston. It has been several times engraved and publicly exhibited. After many and notable acts against the English, Chrystell was taken prisoner at last, in the Castle of Loch Doon, near Dalmellington, in Ayrshire, through the treachery of one of his retainers named MacNab. Barbour says, in his antiquated style of English :

And worthy Christoll of Seytoun
 In to London betresyt was
 Throw a discipill of Judas,
 Maknab, a fals tratour that ay
 Was off his duelling nycht and day.

—*The Bruce.*

This account is confirmed by a tradition current in the neighborhood of Loch Doon that a portion of land, at the

* Tytler : *History*, I., 207.



DRAWN BY STONEHURST

DUMFRIES IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, WITH SETON'S MEMORIAL CHAPEL IN THE FOREGROUND.

(From an old print.)

Engraved by J. H. H. H.

lower end of the lake, which is still known by the name of Macnabston, was given to the traitor as the price of his crime. (Paterson, *Ayrshire*, III., 9.) The ruins of the ancient Castle of Loch Doon are on a rocky islet, at the head of the lake whose waters, still famous for fish, are embosomed in hills that are now bare and bleak, but were once covered with primeval trees forming part of the Forest of Buchan. Sir Christopher was immediately conveyed to London to be exhibited to the king, and then brought back to Dumfries and executed there, because he had been present and consenting (?) to Bruce's killing of the Red Comyn in a sudden quarrel in the Greyfriars' Church in that town on February 10, 1305. In a quaint *Life of Robert Bruce*, published in the early part of the eighteenth century, our own Sir Christopher is thus enshrined in verse:

"The noble Seton, ever dear to Fame,
A god-like Patriot, and a spotless Name,
By factious Treason in Lochdown betrayed,
And to Augusta's hostile towers conveyed;
For Scotia's sake resigned his gallant Breath,
Great in his Life, and glorious in his Death."

The historian Tytler says: "So dear to King Robert was the memory of his faithful friend and fellow warrior, that he afterwards erected on the spot where he was executed a little chapel, where mass was said for his soul." The widow of Sir Christopher was really the one who built this chapel for her husband, in honor of the Holy Cross; but her royal brother so generously endowed it by a charter dated at Berwick-on-Tweed, the last day of November, 1323, that he is sometimes called the founder. This memorial chapel stood on a natural eminence just outside of the town walls, which was ever after called "Chrystell's Mount," and, by corruption, "Kerstie's Mount." It was a beautiful little Gothic building of oblong shape, cornered by pointed buttresses, and having a richly decorated oriel window. It was further endowed with a small

portion of the surrounding land. Sir Richard Maitland, our earliest family historian, who lived before the downfall of the Old Religion in Scotland, tells us that he had sundry times held in his hand and read the king's charter endowing the chapel, that he had heard mass there, and that it was standing whole and entire in the year 1552. The chapel was closed after the establishment of the New Religion in Scotland, and its endowments were secularized. It remained standing for nearly two centuries, a forlorn protest against the spoliation, until it was torn down in a panic by the townspeople in 1715, to build a wall and rampart against an expected attack of the Jacobite insurgents. A Presbyterian church was raised in 1838 on what is still called "The Chrystal Mount"; and when the excavations were being made, traces of the foundation of the chapel were discovered, and "many of the stones, but all without ornaments, are still to be discerned in the neighboring dykes." A few of these were collected and set up, with a well-meaning but inelegant inscription, within his private burial ground by the late Major James Adair in 1840. Sir Christopher's widow was confined for a time in a nunnery in England, but was liberated in a few years, and died in peace. About the same time that all this happened, Sir John Seton, Christopher's brother, was executed at Newcastle. Burton, writing in his *History of Scotland* (II., 245) of the many and cruel executions among the Norman nobility, observes that "these are the acts that break the spirit of servile races, but only nerve those of higher mettle to defiance." Even the plain people were shocked at the shedding of so much noble blood, and regretted the death of their leaders, although of an alien race:

Where's Nigel Bruce, and De la Haye,
And vallant Seton—where are they?
Where Somerville, the kind and free?
And Fraser, flower of chivalry?

—SCOTT: *Lord of the Isles*.

The large hereditary estates of the family in England were now confiscated. The manor of Seton at Whitby Strand, in Yorkshire, was conferred upon Edmund de Manley, a very eminent person in the reigns of Edward I. and II., and distinguished in the Scottish wars. He subsequently fell at Bannockburn. The more extensive domain in Northumberland was granted to William, Lord Latimer. He also came to grief, being made prisoner at Bannockburn.

XI. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF SETON (2). He succeeded his good father, and was knighted by King Robert Bruce. He was employed both in civil and in military affairs, for in January, 1302, he had a safe conduct into England, and three years later the Scottish king applied for another one for him to treat of a peace with the English. In 1306 there was a mutual indenture made between Sir Gilbert Hay of Erroll, Sir Niel Campbell of Lochaw, and Sir Alexander Seton of Seton, knights, at the Abbey of Lindores, to defend King Robert Bruce and his crown to the last of their blood and fortune. "Upon sealing the said indenture they solemnly took the Sacrament at Saint Mary's altar in the said abbey church" (Balfour, *Annals*). "Seton," says Alexander Laing (*History of Lindores Abbey*, p. 93), "came of a race that fought bravely and suffered much for the independence of Scotland."

On the 9th of September, 1308, he again bound himself in the most public manner, in the same company, on the high altar of the Abbey Church of Cambuskenneth, near Stirling, "to defend till the last period of their lives the liberties of their country and right of Robert Bruce, their king, against all mortals, French, English, and Scots."* Sir Alexander Seton shared in the glorious victory of Bannockburn, June 24, 1314. Sir Thomas Gray, on the testimony of his father, who was then a prisoner in the Scotch camp, tells us that Sir Alexander Seton rode to Bruce's tent in the wood the even-

* Collins's *Peerage*, VII., 419.

ing before the battle with important information, and advised him to take the offensive, and attack the English next morning with vigor. A rare and curious little book, an English poem on King Robert, by Patrick Gordon, first published at Dort, in Holland, in 1615, and reprinted at Edinburgh in 1718, in describing the gathering of the Scottish hosts from every quarter of the kingdom for the crowning effort of Ban-nockburn, exclaims:

Three thousand more came forth of Lothian fair,
All Princes, Lords, and Knights, and men of Fame,
Where Seton's Lord, e'en Winton's Earl, did bear
Not meanest Rule, with others of great Name.

—*Ch.* XV., 172.

Sir Alexander got from his royal uncle important grants of land for services rendered by his father, and also certain honorable and uncommon additions to his paternal coat-of-arms. A little later he received another grant—this time of the Barony of Barnes, in East Lothian, for his own services, particularly in Ireland, whither he had accompanied the king's brother, Edward Bruce. The appeal of the Irish chieftains for deliverance from their English conquerors, the Scottish expedition to Ireland, the crowning of Edward Bruce as King of Ireland (1316), his victorious march at the head of a small army of Scotchmen, with very little native assistance, from Carrickfergus to Limerick, his unsuccessful siege of Dublin, his retreat northward, and his final defeat and death with nearly all his followers at the battle of Dundalk, on October 5, 1318, is one of the most chivalrous episodes, as it was one of the most ill-advised measures, in the history of Scotland.

The best of these grants was that of Tranent, on the high-road between Edinburgh and Berwick-on-Tweed, because it was one of the oldest towns in East Lothian. It remained for four hundred years in the family and gave it a secondary title—Lord Tranent—which even now figures among

those of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton. There were many barons attached to the English Court who had possessed vast estates in Scotland, a state of affairs causing oscillations in allegiance sadly calamitous to the weaker kingdom; but Scottish independence being now an assured fact,

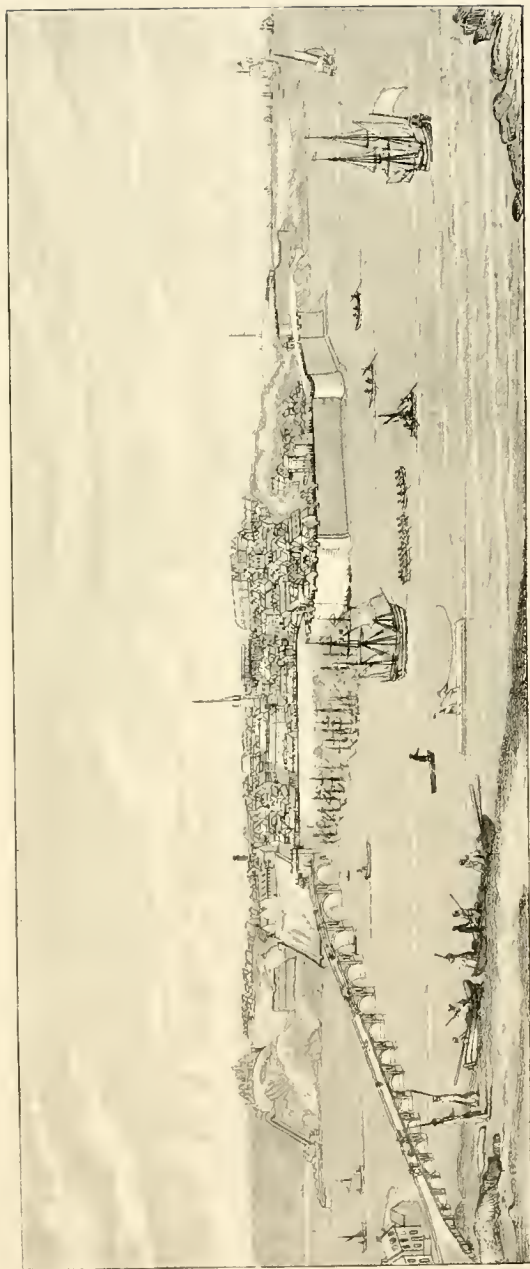


SEAL OF ROGER DE QUINCY, 1250.

Showing Dragon-crest which passed to the Setons.

there was, fortunately, at the crown's disposal the property of these disinherited barons to equalize things in some measure, and compensate loyal Scots for the losses of their own English estates. Robert de Quincy, a Northamptonshire baron, acquired Tranent in 1165 from William the Lion. His oldest son, Sayher, Lord of Tranent, was created Earl of Winchester in England, and set out, in 1218, with other English knights for the Crusade. He died at the siege of

Damietta, in Egypt. His brother, Roger de Quincy, succeeded him, and left at his death, in 1264, three daughters, co-heiresses, each of whom received some portion of the great Tranent estate. These ladies were closely related to John Balliol, and the husbands of two of them were Englishmen: Sir Alan de la Zouche and William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby. The other sister was married to Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan. Their husbands sided with England in the contest for the crown; and when it was finally decided in favor of Bruce, their property in Scotland was given to his nephew and companion-in-arms, whose family had for several generations possessed the neighboring lands of Seton and Winton, while he himself was of the blood of the de Quincys. Sir Alexander Seton was one of the thirty-nine nobles and others who assembled in Parliament at the Abbey of Arbroath on April 6, 1320, and addressed that famous letter to Pope John XXII. at Avignon, which is one of the most spirited and patriotic documents in history. It induced the Holy See to recognize the independence of Scotland and the title of King Robert Bruce. The following passage will give some idea of the energy and determination of the signers: "It is not glory, it is not riches, neither is it honor; but it is LIBERTY alone that we fight and contend for, which no honest man will lose but with his life." As Burton says, much of the power and terseness of this memorable manifesto is lost in translating from the Latin. Sir Alexander was a benefactor of the monastery at Haddington, and looked only to pass his remaining years in piety and repose; but the peace of the kingdom was violently broken by the attempt of Edward Balliol to seize the crown after the death of Bruce, and during the minority of his son David II. Balliol and his party came by sea and made a sudden landing at Wester Kinghorn, on the coast of Fife, in August, 1332. The Scottish army, feebly commanded, kept at a distance; but "Sir Alexander Seton threw



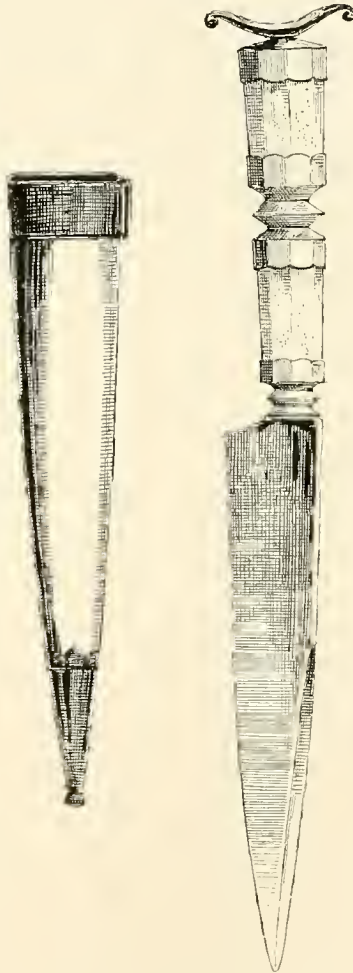
VIEW OF BERWICK-ON-TWEED IN 1745.
On the left are seen the ruins of the old castle.

himself with a handful of soldiers upon the English, and was instantly overpowered and cut to pieces" (Tytler, *Hist. of Scot.*, II., 10), yet not, says Maitland, until he had hurt and slain divers of the enemy. This perfect knight continued the succession of fortunate marriages by which his House had been consolidated, and which was to become a sort of tradition among his descendants; for there is not, up to the eighteenth century, another family in Scotland which made so many advantageous marriages and gave so many younger sons to heiresses. He married Isabel, daughter of Duncan, tenth Earl of Fife. Her origin was from the ancient Thanes or Maormors, whose line ended in the middle of the fourteenth century, when the title reverted to the crown, and was conferred on Robert Stuart, Earl of Menteith and Duke of Albany, younger son of King Robert II. The wealthy Duffs—late Earls, now Dukes of Fife—are comparatively modern people, having no connection of blood or descent with Sir Alexander's wife.

XII. SIR ALEXANDER SETON (3). He succeeded to Sir Alexander II., his father, and was truly a noble knight and renowned in Scottish prose and verse. He was made captain and keeper of Berwick in April, 1333, bringing, as his contribution to the defence of this important town, one hundred men-at-arms and five gallant sons. Berwick was closely besieged and blockaded by Edward III., but made a stout resistance. In one of the sorties William Seton advanced so impetuously that he was taken prisoner by the enemy; and another time, in a boat-attack at night on the English ships, an illegitimate son of the governor, name unknown, but described by Maitland as "a young and valiant man," was drowned through falling short in a leap he made from one vessel to another. Soon afterward Thomas Seton, a comely and noble-looking youth, eldest son and heir of the governor, was delivered a hostage to the king for the faithful carrying out of

an agreement to surrender the city unless relief arrived before a certain day. This was in July; but a misunderstanding having arisen, King Edward, who conducted the siege in person, put both the governor's sons to death in a public manner and in a conspicuous place, hoping to influence the governor to save his children by agreeing to the English terms of surrender. Sir Alexander was unmoved by any such appeal, and Scotch poets and historians have invested this episode with a tragic interest. His wife was Christian Cheyne of Straloch. She belonged to a Norman-Scotch family, longed settled in Aberdeenshire, and which had come into England at the Conquest, in the person of Ralph de Caineto, one of whose descendants was created Baron Cheyne, in the English peerage, in 1487, and another Viscount of Newhaven, in the Scottish peerage, in 1681. The Cheynes, singular as it may appear now that they are so utterly forgotten, were once a very eminent family. They were heritable Sheriffs of Banff. Sir Reginald Cheyne of Inverugie founded the Carmelite Monastery in Aberdeen, bestowing large revenues on it. By his wife, a daughter of Comyn, Lord of Badenoch, he had two sons: Sir Reginald Cheyne, Lord Chamberlain of Scotland in 1267, and Henry Cheyne, Bishop of Aberdeen, who sided with his uncle's party, and was obliged to take refuge in England. The chief seat of the family was Inverugie Castle, now in ruins, but remarkable as containing the *oldest icehouse in Scotland*. Straloch was an estate of the Cheynes in what is now New Machar Parish, district of Buchan, Aberdeenshire. The last mention that I can find of this ancient and once powerful family is in Bellesheim's *History of the Catholic Church of Scotland*, III., 388, who writes that: "As early as 1576 Dr. James Cheyne, formerly parish priest of Aboyne, and afterward canon of Tournai and professor of theology at Douai, founded at Tournai a small seminary for his countrymen." He was of good stock and brother to the Laird of

Arnage, in Buchan. Sir Alexander Seton was one of the witnesses with the Bishop of Saint Andrew's, the Abbot of Lindores, and others, on June 27, 1331, to a charter of Sir John Dundemore—now Dunmore—conveying in free gift to the monks of Balmerino the right to the water running through his land of Dunderauch for the use of their mill at Pitgornoch. The bestowal of this gift was apparently made by the hospitable Fathers occasion of a festive gathering at Dunmore, at which most of the guests were men “who had borne their part in the great struggle for Independence.” Sir Alexander had a safe conduct to pass into England in October, 1337. His curious old dagger, with a silver-mounted handle capped by a crescent, which, besides indicating ownership, formed a rest for the thumb in giving a thrust, is now in the possession of his descendant, William Seton of New York. He died at a good age, and was buried in his parish church of Seton, leaving two sons: Alexander, who succeeded him, and John, founder of the line of Parbroath.



SIR ALEXANDER SETON'S DAGGER.

XIII. SIR ALEXANDER SETON, KNIGHT (4). He succeeded to his patrimonial estate, yet lived to enjoy it only a few years. He was the third, but eldest surviving son of the late Governor of Berwick. Maitland says that he was a wise and virtuous man; and after living honorably, died in peace and was buried in his family vault in the parish church of Seton. He married Margaret, sister to Sir William Murray, Captain of Edinburgh Castle, by whom he left an only child, a daughter, named, for her mother, Margaret; so that in him the direct male line of the family came, partially at least, to an end. Taylor says (*Great Historic Families of Scotland*, I., 128) that Sir Alexander "sought refuge from his sorrows and troubles in a hospital of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, and his daughter Margaret became the heiress of his extensive estates." It was, no doubt, in that age the most poignant domestic grief for a knight of large landed interest and of long descent to have no sons and to be left with one whom, however good and beautiful, he would love—

"As heiress and not heir regretfully."

XIV. MARGARET, HEIRESS OF SETON. Lady Margaret Seton was forcibly abducted in the year 1347 by a neighboring baron named Alan de Winton, a distant kinsman of her own and a cadet of the Seton family. Andrew Wyntoun relates the case in his *Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland*, saying: "Dat yhere Alene de Wyntoun tuk the yhoung Lady Setoun and weddit hyr than till hys wyf." This outrage caused a bloody contest in Lothian; on which occasion, says Fordun, a hundred ploughs were laid aside from labor. In a ballad entitled "Alan of Winton and the Heiress of Seton," we find some good verses, and in one of the stanzas an allusion to the family Crest:

"One hundred ploughs unharnessed lie,
The dusky collier leaves his mines.
A Seton ! is the gathering cry,
And far the fiery Dragon shines."

A romantic incident of this affair—the opposition springing, perhaps, from selfish motives on the part of her guardian—is that when Margaret was rescued and Alan confronted with the Seton family, she was handed a ring and a dagger, with permission to give him either Love or Death. She gave him the ring, and they were happy ever afterward.

The earliest notice of *Wrychtshouses*, near Edinburgh, which passed later to the famous Napiers, occurs in a charter dated June 25, 1383, where it is seen that it belonged up to that time to Henry de Wynton, who then resigned it. One of the oldest stones of this mansion bears the Seton arms, and it is supposed that Henry was a younger son of this marriage. He was one of the heroes of Otterburn, August 19, 1388. Froissart calls him “The Seigneur de Venton” (*Wintoun*, Francisque Michel).

Alan de Winton assumed his wife’s name, and died in the Holy Land, leaving, besides a daughter Christian, who became Countess of Dunbar and March, two sons: Sir William Seton, his successor, and Henry, who retained his father’s name and inherited Wrychtshouses. He married Amy Brown of Coalston, in whose ancient family, now merged into that of Ramsay, Earl of Dalhousie, was the “Coalston Pear,” to which such a singular legend has been attached since about the year 1260:

“In an account of the Seton family compiled by Alexander Nisbet, the well-known writer on Heraldry, a fifth Sir Alexander Seton is set down, and it is stated that he ‘married Jean, daughter to Sir Thomas Halyburton of Dirleton’; but he may have been only a collateral of certain but undetermined degree of kinship. Nisbet saw the Seton and Halyburton arms impaled as baron and femme on an ‘old genealogical tree’ in the possession of the Earl of Winton, at Seton House.”

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1383-1585.

XV. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF SETON, FIRST LORD SETON. He was a famous knight in the middle of the fourteenth century, and visited Jerusalem. On his return he took part, in 1383, with the Borderers of Scotland, in that raid into England described so graphically by Froissart (who names him), "for they said there had been such damage done to their lands as was disagreeable to themselves and friends, which they would revenge the very first opportunity." They came back with a rich booty in prisoners and cattle. Froissart mentions in the same year a Sir John Seton, who took part with the English in the counter-raid into Scotland. He must have been one of the Yorkshire Setons. Those were days of murderous and almost constant fighting between the Scotch and English; and one of the battles is forever celebrated in poetry and romance. The battle of Otterburn, which furnished material for the ballad of *Chevy Chase*, was fought on the 19th of August, 1388, and Sir William Seton was there. Froissart's calling him "le seigneur de Seton" confirms the testimony of Maitland that he was created a Lord of Parliament, as we shall presently see. Johnes's translation and edition of the *Chronicles*, which is now most commonly used—that of Lord Berners, although the classical one, being too antiquated in language and style—has a gross error in the account of this affair. He says "the lord Saltoun," instead of "Seton," which shows his ignorance of Scotch names and history. There was no "Lord Saltoun" at this date. Lawrence Abernethy of Saltoun was created a peer by the title of

Lord Saltoun in 1445, nearly sixty years after the battle; and in 1669 the peerage devolved through female descent from the seventh lord, upon Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, who succeeded as heir of line and became tenth lord. There was, indeed, a knight of the great family of Fraser in this chivalrous encounter, and his name is properly given by Johnes as "Sir Alexander Frazer"; in the original *Chroniques* it is "messire Alexandre Fresiel." Froissart mentions "Sir John Assueton," * Sir John of Seton, as the name is given in the *Armorial de Gelre*, where it is attached to the arms, and is written "Luert a Seton." (See note to Johnes, Vol. I., p. 448.) He was one of the hundred Scots lances who, during the truce of nine years between the two kingdoms, went with Sir Robert Knolles to Picardy and Vermandois. "There was a Scots knight in the English army who performed a most gallant deed of arms. He quitted his troop with his lance in rest, and mounted on his courser, followed only by his page; when, sticking spurs into his horse, he was soon up the mountain and at the barriers. The name of this knight was Sir John Assueton, a very valiant and able man, perfectly master of his profession. When he was arrived at the barriers of Noyon, he dismounted, and giving his horse to his page, said, 'Quit not this place': then, grasping his spear, he advanced to the barriers, and leaped over them. There were on the inside some good knights of that country, such as Sir John de Roye, Sir Launcelot de Lorris, and ten or twelve others, who were astonished at this action, and wondered what he would do next; however, they received him well. The Scots knight, addressing them, said: 'Gentlemen, I am come to see you; for as you do not vouchsafe to come out beyond your barriers, I condescend to visit you. I wish to try my knight-

* This is a copyist's mistake for Sir John A Seton—the *de* being sometimes gallo-latinized into *A*. We shall see a case later on (p. 144) of Robert A Bruce instead of Robert de Bruce.

hood against yours, and you will conquer me if you can.' After this he gave many grand strokes with his lance, which they returned him. He continued in this situation alone against them all, skirmishing and fighting most gallantly upwards of an hour. He wounded one or two of their knights, and they had so much pleasure in this combat they frequently forgot themselves. The inhabitants looked from above the gates and top of the walls with wonder. They might have done him much hurt with their arrows if they had so willed; but no, the French knights had forbidden it. Whilst he was thus engaged, his page came close to the barriers, mounted on his courser, and said to him aloud, in his own language, 'My lord, you had better come away: it is time, for our army is on its march.' The knight, who had heard him, made ready to follow his advice, and after he had given two or three thrusts to clear the way, he seized his spear, and leaped again over the barrier without any hurt, and, armed as he was, jumped up behind the page on his courser. When he was thus mounted, he said to the French, 'Adieu, gentlemen. Many thanks to you!' and spurring his steed soon rejoined his companions. This gallant feat of Sir John Assueton was highly prized by all manner of persons." *

Froissart, during the fifteen days he spent at Dalkeith, the residence of Earl Douglas, rode around with him to visit the neighboring barons, Ramsay of Dalhousie, Sinclair of Rosslyn, and Seton of Seton, who all figure in the *Chronicles*.

Maitland informs us that Sir William Seton "was the first created and made lord in the parliament, and he and his posterity to have a vote therein, and be called Lords." Several of his ancestors sat in Parliament; and to understand Sir Richard one must remember that for two centuries after the introduction of Feudal Law into Scotland the only baronies

* Geoffrey de Seton took part in the famous tournament of Saint-Inglevert, in March, 1390. Froissart calls him "ung gentil chevallier et bien joustant."

known were incident to the tenure of land held immediately from the Crown, and every tenant in chief by knight's service was an honorary or parliamentary baron by reason of his tenure, but yet did not always receive a Writ of Summons to attend. With the gradual decay of Feudalism and the concentration of power in the Crown, certain rules of procedure became established by legislative enactment with the royal assent; and the higher order of the Nobility was distinguished from the lower one, by having conferred upon its members an hereditary right to be summoned and to sit and vote irrespective of feudal tenure or even of the possession of any land at all. They then formed a separate chamber in Parliament, which constituted the Peerage, or House of Lords. Thus certain baronial families became by favor of the sovereign or other accidental circumstance peerage families, while many others of an origin equally good never attained to the peerage, although their ancestors sat in what were then, as now, called parliaments; and their descendants are only Commons. Hence the absurdity of speaking of an ancient and feudal family as having been *ennobled*, when the proper expression would be "raised to the peerage." In a manuscript of the British Museum, Sir William Seton is styled "Wilhelmus primus Dns. Seton," and several other documents confirm the title to him. His descendant refused an earldom in the sixteenth century, because he preferred the distinction of being the Premier Baron of Scotland. The precise date of the creation is unknown, but it is reasonably presumed to have been some time before 1393. Lord Seton married Catharine, daughter of Sir William St. Clair of Herdmans-ton, a great house at that time. By her he had two sons and six daughters. The eldest son, John, succeeded his father, while the second son, Alexander, married, in 1408, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Adam Gordon by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Keith, and founded a fam-

ily of Seton blood which rose to fame and importance and the highest ranks of the peerage. The Gordons were originally from Normandy, and the founder of the Scottish branch came into Scotland in the twelfth century, during the reign of King David I., from whom he received a grant of the lands of Gordon in the Merse of Berwickshire. Two centuries later Sir John de Gordon got from King Robert II. a charter of the domain of Strathbogie in the North, and henceforth the Gordons were a great and soon became a typical Highland family. Gordon is a local or topographical name, and is said by Sims * to be derived from *Gour* and *Dun*, meaning a "round hill." In my opinion the name is more likely to come from the Anglo-Saxon *Gore* and *Dun*, and commemorates a bloody battle for possession of the hill on which a fort or camp probably stood at some time in the remote past. All hills are round in that part of Scotland; and combative man in the earlier stages of development generally preferred to give a battle-name rather than a merely descriptive one derived from a natural and not uncommon formation of land on which he dwelt and for which his forefathers had fought. Alexander Seton was created a Lord of Parliament as Lord Gordon about 1437. His son, Alexander Seton, Lord Gordon, assumed his mother's surname, and was created Earl of Huntly. While some of the descendants of this marriage took the name of Gordon, others retained that of Seton. The Marquess of Huntly (Premier Marquess of Scotland) is descended from him in the male, and the Duke of Richmond and Gordon in the female line. The daughters of William and Catharine all married well. Margaret—John, Lord Kennedy; Marion—Sir John Ogilvy of Lintrathen; Jean—John, Lord Lyle; Catharine—Bernard Haldane of Gleneagles; Anna—Hamilton of Preston; Lucy—Lauder of Poppill. All these were men of old family and of personal distinction.

* *Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames.*

Haldane is a rare name and now but seldom heard, yet the Haldanes were barons of considerable consequence in Perthshire as early as 1296. The Earl of Camperdown (Haldane-Duncan), a descendant in the female line, owns the old estate of Gleneagles; but the heir male and representative of the family is the Rt. Rev. James Robert Alexander Chinnery-Haldane, Protestant Bishop of Argyll and The Isles.

Lord Seton belonged to the third Order of Saint Francis, and dying in February, 1409, was buried in the Church of the Franciscan Friars in Haddington, to whom he left by will six loads of coal weekly, out of his coal-pit of Tranent, and forty shillings annually, to be charged on his estate of Barnes. His widow is described as a virtuous and energetic woman, who got husbands for four of her daughters, and built a chantry on the south side of the parish church of Seton, prepared a tomb for herself there, and made provision for a priest to say mass perpetually for the repose of her soul.

XVI. JOHN, SECOND LORD SETON. He was intended for the Heiress of Gordon, but secretly wedded Janet Dunbar, daughter to the Earl of March, much to his father's displeasure. He had one son by her, who predeceased him, and three daughters. Lord Seton was appointed Master of the Household by King James I., and was sent on a mission to France. He is described as a good fighter and a great hater of the English—*Miles acerrimus et Anglis semper infestus*—and was taken prisoner at the battle of Homildon Hill, in 1402. He had several safe conducts to England between 1409 and 1421, and died about 1441, when he was buried in his mother's chantry at Seton Church. His daughters were disposed of as follows: Christian married Norman Leslie of Rothies, by papal dispensation from the fourth degree of consanguinity, obtained in December, 1415; Janet married Sir Robert Keith, son of the Earl Marischal; Marian married Sir William Baillie of Laminton, in Lanarkshire, now represented

by Baillie of Dochfour, County Inverness, and in Ireland by Baillie of Ringdufferin, County Down.

XVII. WILLIAM, MASTER OF SETON. The term "Master," as applied to the oldest son of barons, is peculiar to Scotland, where it was used as early as the beginning of the fifteenth century. It was introduced from France, where the heir to the throne was styled *Monsieur*, and is always put before the family title, not the name, unless the title and the name are one.

He first appears in a charter which he witnessed in 1423, where he is described as "William Seton, son and heir of John, Lord Seton."

In the wars of France there were Scotchmen on both sides. An Alexander Seton, who cannot now be identified, took forty lances and forty men-at-arms; Alexander Forbes took sixty lances; John St. Clair took thirty lances; Alexander and Fergus Kennedy took thirty lances—in all, two hundred fighting men—to the assistance of King Henry V. in 1421. The Master of Seton accompanied the Scotch Auxiliaries to the assistance of the French, and after sharing in the victory of Baugé was slain at the bloody battle of Verneuil, August 17, 1424. In this engagement nearly all the killed on the French side, about nine thousand, were Scotch, who, led by gentlemen, strove against odds with the usual courage and tenacity of their race. "A few years after, a Frenchman who had fought at Verneuil and subsequently became a hermit, paid a visit to the field of battle. He caused it to be blessed, erected a chapel, and, for the honour of the cause he had defended, piously collected the bones of the victims. In 1462 the States of Dauphiné founded a perpetual service in memory of the event in the celebrated Abbey of St. Antoine de Viennois. This daily service was called 'The Mass of Verneuil.'"

By his wife, whose name is unrecorded, William, Master of Seton, left a son George, who succeeded his grandfather,

and two daughters: Catharine, who married Alan Stuart of Darnley, and was mother of the first Earl of Lennox; and Janet, who married John, second Lord Halyburton.

My reverend friend, Father William Forbes-Leith, S.J., published in 1882, in two volumes, *The Scots Guards in France*, from which I have collected some matters of family interest not found elsewhere. As early as the first despatch of Scotch Auxiliaries to France two Setons, Thomas and his brother, are found each at the head of a company of men-at-arms and archers, and were "conspicuous amongst the most faithful followers of the Dauphin. Thomas was favoured with the estate of Langeais and appointed to accompany Charles wherever he went" (I., 13). In a joint communication from the Earls of Douglas and Buchan to Charles VII., announcing the victory of Baugé (22d March, 1421), they recommend him for special reward, saying: "Most high and mighty Prince, your well-beloved Charles le Bouteiller was also killed—God rest his soul!—who in his lifetime was Seneschal of Berry; and we pray you heartily to bestow the said office as the said knight would have done had he been alive, on your servant and cousin THOMAS SETON, who has on this occasion done his duty well" (II., 203). Sir Thomas Seton was killed a few years later before the fortress of Cravant. In 1636 we find *Jean de Seton, Lieutenant de la 1^e compagnie appelée la compagnie Ecossaise et commandant les quatre compagnies en l'armée de Picardie*;* and in 1642 Sir James Seton, lieutenant in the Scots Guards, conveyed the famous conspirators Cinq-Mars and de Thou to Lyons, and kept them in the castle of Pierre-Encise until they were beheaded. At the funeral of Louis XIII. the Scots Guards accompanied the king's body from Saint Germain to the royal vault at Saint Denis; and Lieutenant Seton, in command, successfully resisted the claim of others to be pall-bearers, and

* *Scots Guards in France*, II., 192.

was sustained by the Master of Ceremonies. To conclude a short digression, Setons are found officers and gentlemen-privates * in this celebrated corps from 1419 to 1679, the last of our name on the list and muster-rolls being "David Seton, Brigadier."

XVIII. GEORGE, THIRD LORD SETON. He succeeded to the title and estates while still a minor, "being bot nyne yeirs of age," and was secured as a rich prize by Sir William Crichton, the powerful but unscrupulous Lord Chancellor, who then held possession of Edinburgh Castle. After a while he regained his liberty through the efforts of the Laird of Johnstone, who seems to have been connected by marriage with the Seton family, which accounts for his interest in the heir. He was well cared for by this noble and kind-hearted Borderer in his castle of Lochwood, in Annandale. When George grew up he accompanied Crichton, who, after all, could not well have meant him wrong, on an embassy to France and Burgundy, and had a safe conduct to pass through England, April 23, 1448.† He was very tall and handsome, a good scholar, and an accomplished courtier. He made a great match, marrying Lady Margaret Stewart, only daughter and heiress of the gallant John, Earl of Buchan, younger son of Robert, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, and grandson of King Robert II., of which branch of the royal Stuarts the Setons are the only Representatives. For his victory at Baugé, 22d March, 1421, the earl was made Constable of France. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas in Scotland, and Duke of Touraine in France. He was one of the foremost warriors of his

* Father Forbes-Leith, in an "Important Observation on the Muster Rolls" (II., 209), calls our attention to the fact that "all the men-at-arms and archers named in the Muster Rolls were, nevertheless, men of rank and birth."

† Elizabeth, the Chancellor's eldest daughter, was married to Alexander Seton, Earl of Huntly.

time. The chivalrous spirit and martial achievements of this family, in which illustrious ancestry, princely possessions, and historic renown have so long been united, are too well known to require even a passing mention:

“And Douglasses were heroes every age.”

By this marriage Lord Seton had a son called John, of whom hereafter, and a daughter Christian, who married Hugh Douglas of Corehead. He had also an illegitimate son, who was slain at Flodden, leaving a son called John, who was father to Thomas, who became a priest. This lord kept a great house, and was given to entertaining. He restored and embellished the parish church of Seton. “After he had lived a long and honorable life,” says Maitland, he died in the Convent of the Black Friars (Dominicans) at Edinburgh, and was buried in the choir of their church. He left them, by will, twenty marks to be paid annually out of his estate of Hartsyde, in Berwickshire.

XIX. JOHN, MASTER OF SETON. He died during the lifetime of his father, and was buried in the parish church of Seton. He married Christian, daughter of the first Lord Lindsay of the Byres, by whom he had three sons and a daughter, who married the second Lord Lyle. The eldest son, George, succeeded his grandfather; the next son was John, who had a son killed by robbers in Annandale while returning, with too small an escort, from a military expedition into England; the youngest son was Alexander, who had, besides a son called John, Baillie of Tranent, who married and had issue, a daughter named Christian, who was wedded to Preston of Whitehill.

XX. GEORGE, FOURTH LORD SETON. He succeeded his grandfather, and exemplified in his person the hereditary love of learning in his family. Maitland says: “He was much given to Letters, and was cunning in divers sciences, as in

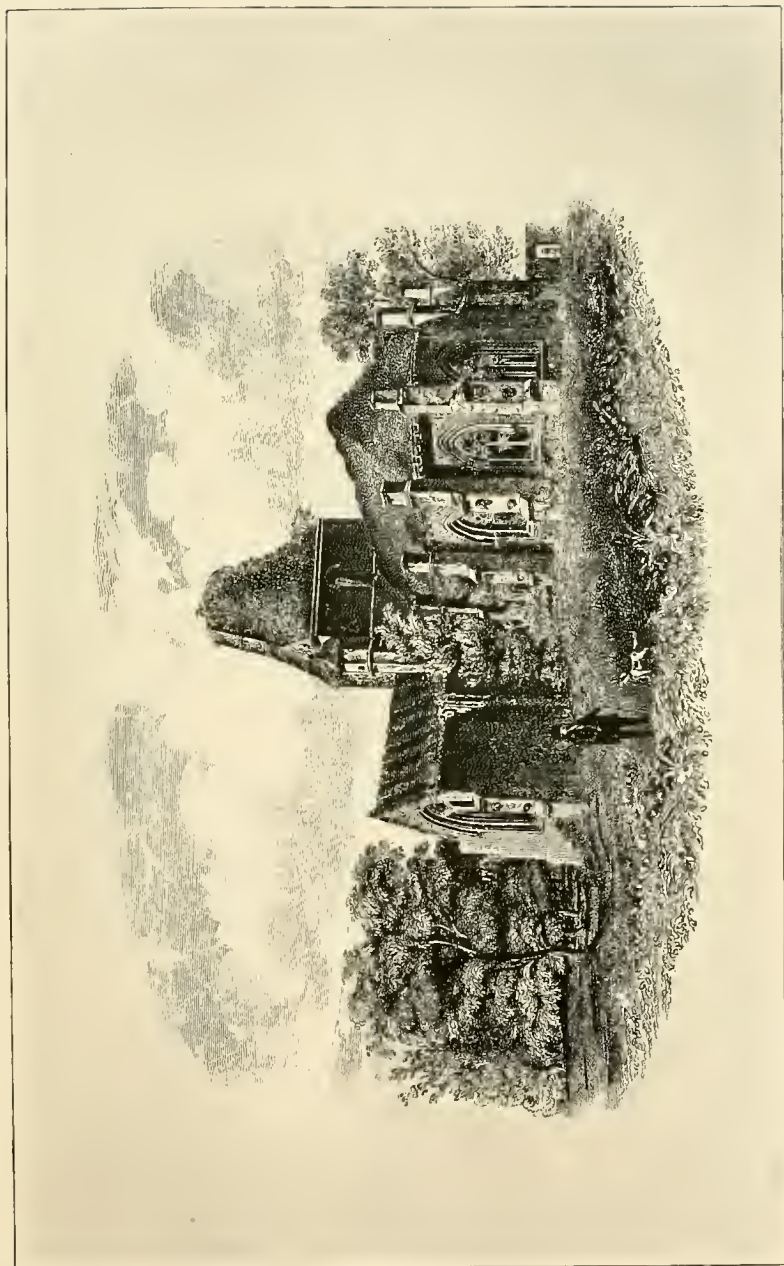
astrology, music, and theology. He was so devoted to study that even after his marriage he went to the University of Saint Andrew's, and after a while to that of Paris to prosecute his researches." A nobleman in that age who made physical experiments and spent money in such things, who travelled only to become acquainted with learned people, and strove to increase his knowledge in spheres not affected, but rather disdained by men of rank, was generally suspected of dealing in the black art, and consequently we are not surprised or ashamed that, appended to the name of this Lord Seton in a curious pedigree of Scotch families compiled in 1604, we find the damning words, *Locatus Necromanticus*. Shortly after his accession to the title he entered (July 3, 1480) into what was called a Band of Friendship, for mutual support, encouragement, and counsel with his neighbor, Sir Oliver St. Clair of Rosslyn. Between 1484 and 1503 he was engaged in the public affairs of the kingdom, while at the same time devoting considerable attention to his patrimonial estates, with a fine eye to architecture and to the dignity of Religion. In this line he built Winton House, and laid out the garden and park around it; but his more enduring memorial is the Collegiate Church of Seton. A Church of Seton, *Ecclesia de Seethun*, is mentioned as early as 1242, and the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, S. J., discovered "a presentation of the church of Seyton, in the year 1296." It must have been a considerable church even before it was made collegiate by papal authority, because a Brief of Pope Paul II., in 1465, which is preserved among the treasures of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, mentions the "Provost of Seton"—*Prepositus de Seton*. Schools of elementary instruction were almost always attached to these old Scottish churches. The learned Bellesheim, author of the *History of the Catholic Church of Scotland* (translated by Dom Oswald Hunter Blair, O.S.B.), gives a list of forty collegiate churches in the kingdom, and says:

“ During the second half of the fourteenth century we first find recorded the foundation of a collegiate church, a proof of the influence still exercised by religion on men’s hearts. These collegiate churches were establishments of secondary importance to the great cathedral and monastic institutions, and consisted generally of a dean and a certain number of canons, whose principal duty was the solemn performance of divine service ” (II., 29). There exists in the Advocates’ Library at Edinburgh a Brief of Pope Alexander VI., written on vellum, and dated 1492, *dans potestatem . . . ad procedendum in erectione ecclesiae collegiatae de Seton*. In consequence Lord Seton, on June 20, 1493, had the provisions of the Brief carried out by the ecclesiastical authorities to whom it had been committed—viz., the Bishops of Candida Casa (Whithorn) and Dunblane, and the Abbot of Newbattle. It is one of the only two remaining churches in Scotland that are roofed with *stone*. My friend Mr. William Winter glances at this sacred monument of our name and family in the following passage from his exquisite *Gray Days and Gold*: “ On Preston battlefield the golden harvest stood in sheaves, and the meadows glimmered green in the soft sunshine, while over them the white clouds drifted and the peaceful rooks made wing in happy indolence and peace. Soon the ruined church of Seton came into view, with its singular stunted tower and its venerable gray walls couched in trees, and around it the cultivated, many-coloured fields, and the breezy, emerald pastures stretching away to the verge of the sea. A glimpse, and it is gone ” (p. 323). I here reproduce a short account I wrote some thirty years ago:

This little church, whose original pile was very ancient, is situated near the sea-coast of Scotland, about twelve miles below Edinburgh, and rears itself close to the mansion-house of the Setons. It enclosed for many centuries their family tomb, and received from them whatever decorations, endow-

ments, furniture of sacred vessels, and ornaments they imagined could add to its magnificence. The present structure was erected in the thirteenth century, and King Robert I. granted to the "town of Seton the liberty of having a weekly market every holiday after mass," when the traders would expose their goods in booths beside the church, where the presence of the clergy and the sanctity of the place, under the invocation of Our Lady and Saint Bennet (Benedict), patron of the family, tended to preserve order among the people and justice in their dealings. In the year 1493 it was made a collegiate establishment for a provost, six prebendaries, two singing-boys, and a clerk, to whose support George, Lord Seton, assigned the tithes of the church and various chaplainries which had been founded in it by his ancestors. At later dates other members of the family made additions to the edifice, multiplied its ornaments, increased its wealth, and raised within it some sumptuous monuments. In 1544 the English invaders, while destroying the neighboring castle, desecrated the church; and after removing the bells, organ, and other portable objects to their ships, burnt the beautiful timber-work within. The church was soon restored, and during the commotions of the Reformation had the good fortune to escape almost uninjured. It remained perfect until the Stuart troubles of 1715, when the Hanoverian troops quartered in the castle and vicinity defaced the interior of the building, broke the tombs, and tore up the pavement in search of hidden treasures and for the lead that encased the bodies.

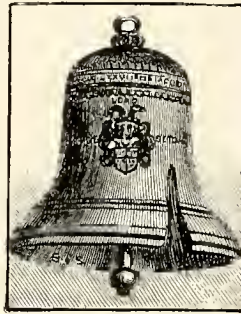
Seton Church while undamaged was a handsome cruciform Gothic structure with a central tower. Now it stands desolate amid ancestral oaks entwined by the ivy—the family Badge—retaining little of its former self, and showing only the impressive and death-like beauty of an architectural ruin. The Earl of Wemyss and March, a



SETON CHURCH.

descendant, but not the representative of the original owners, is the present proprietor, and has arrested the further progress of decay. It has long been a favorite subject with artists.

The illustration in this book is from Swan's engraving in the Maitland Club Edition of the *History of the House of Seton*. The other illustration, showing a portion of the choir, is from the pencil of that accomplished woman, Lady Stafford, Countess of Sutherland in her own right, descended paternally from the Setons and the Gordons. The curious old bell, now unfortunately broken, which formerly hung in the church tower was cast in Holland. It was long used in the parish kirk of Tranent, until removed to Gosford House near by, the seat of Lord Wemyss, by whom it has since been replaced in its original position. The following Dutch inscription is cut upon it: *Jacop eis mynen naem ghegoten van Adriaen Steylaert int iaer MCCCCCLXXVII*. It also bears the name and arms



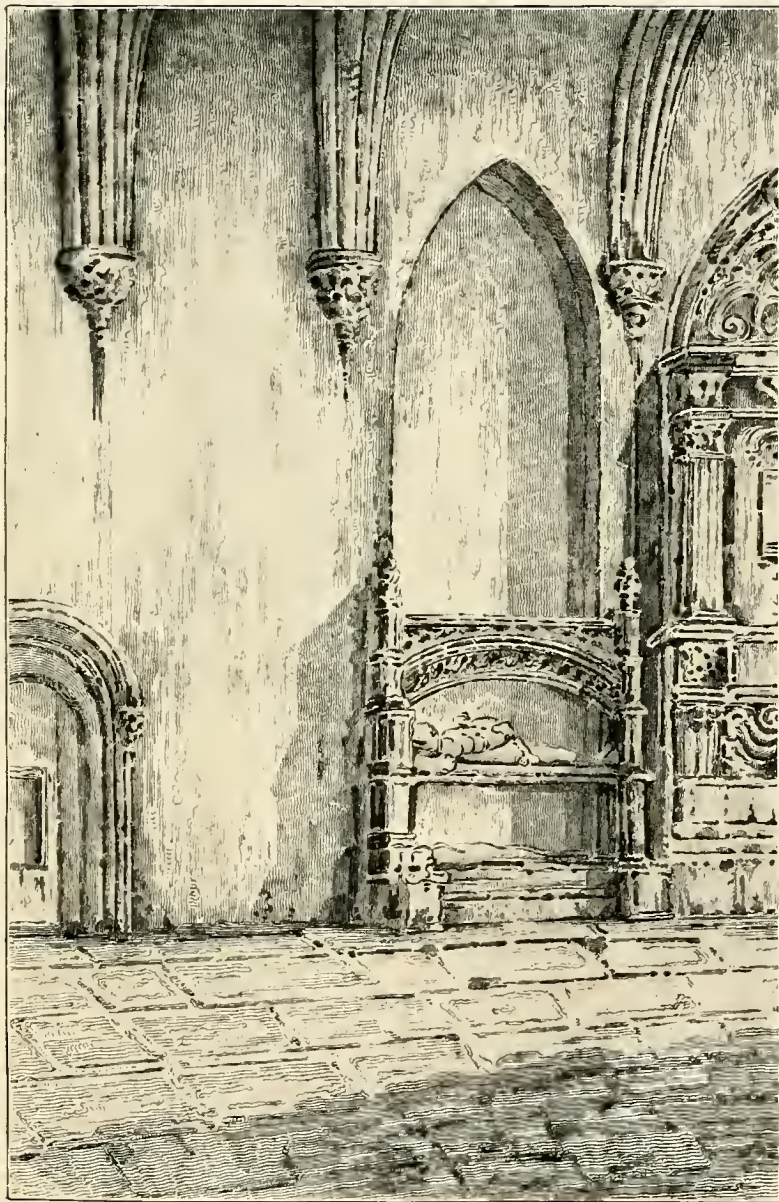
THE BELL OF SETON
CHURCH.

of Lord Seton, and other decorations. A curious feature of Seton Church is the hagioscope, vulgarly called "squint," which is an opening frequently found on one side, and sometimes on both sides, of a chancel arch, arranged obliquely and converging toward the altar, in order to enable worshippers in the side aisles of a church to witness the Elevation of the Host during mass. It is the only one now existing in Scotland. It may be an interesting item that the last burial in this old church (until within these later years, when the Wemyss family are beginning to be interred there) was that of Miss Matilda Seton, on December 8, 1750. I do not know who she was.

This is a season and a scene to hold
 Discourse and purifying monologue,
 Before the silent spirit of the Past !
 Power built this house of Prayer—'twas earthly power,
 And vanished—see its sad mementos round !
 The gillyflowers upon each fractured arch,
 And from the time-worn crevices, look down,
 Blooming where all is desolate. With tufts
 Clustering and dark, and light green trails between,
 The ivy hangs perennial ; yellow-flowered,
 The dandelion shoots its juicy stalks
 Over the thin transparent blades of grass,
 Which bend and flicker, even amid the calm ;
 And, O ! sad emblems of entire neglect,
 In rank luxuriance, the nettles spread
 Behind the massy tablatures of death,
 Hanging their pointed leaves and seedy stalks
 Above the graves, so lonesome and so low
 Of famous men, now utterly unknown,
 Yet whose heroic deeds were, in their day,
 The theme of loud acclaim,—when Seton's arm
 In power with Stuart and with Douglas vied,
 Clad in their robes of state, or graith of war,
 A proud procession, o'er the stage of time,
 As century on century wheeled away,
 They passed ; and, with the escutcheons mouldering o'er
 The little spot, where voicelessly they sleep,
 Their memories have decayed ; nay, even their bones
 Are crumbled down to undistinguished dust,
 Mocking the Herald, who, with pompous tones,
 Would set their proud array of quarterings forth,
 Down to the days of Chrystal and De Bruce.

—DAVID MACBETH MOIR : *The Ruins of Seton Chapel.*

The most notable affair in the life of this lord was his capture by Dunkirkers in the course of one of his voyages to France. After losing all his baggage he was obliged to ransom his life from these Flemish pirates or privateers, but with the firm resolve to bide his time and punish them severely. This he did soon after, although at great cost to himself in land and money. On the 22d of January, 1498-99, as



INTERIOR OF SETON CHURCH.



appears in the Register of the Privy Seal, he bought a ship from the King of Scotland called the *Eagle*, fitted her for war, and put to sea against his enemies, slew many of them, and took and destroyed several of their vessels. The streamers and flags, embroidered with the family arms, used on this occasion were preserved at Seton Castle, and were seen and described by Alexander Nisbet, the writer on Heraldry, over two hundred years later. Lord Seton married Lady Margaret Campbell,* eldest daughter of Colin, first Earl of Argyll, and had three sons and two daughters:

George, his successor;

John, who died without issue;

Robert, a man-at-arms in France, who died in the Castle of La Rocca, at Milan, during the Italian wars of Louis XII., leaving two sons: William, also a man-at-arms, in the Scots Guards in France, and Alexander, who married Janet Sinclair, Heiress of Northrig, and founded the line of the Setons of *Northrig*;

Martha, who married William Maitland of Lethington, of an ancient and distinguished family, and was ancestress of the Earls of Lauderdale. Catharine, refusing many good offers of marriage, entered the Convent of Saint Catharine of Siena, at Edinburgh, and died there a professed sister at the age of seventy-eight. The inmates of this convent were commonly called "nuns of the Sheens," a corruption of Sciennes, and are praised even by that bitter satirist, Sir David Lindsay, for their unsullied virtue.

* The origin of the Campbell family is lost in the mists of antiquity, and their remoter ancestry cannot be determined. The word Campbell itself is Gaelic, and signifies *crooked mouth*. It is an example of a purely personal and descriptive designation becoming an hereditary surname. The earliest figure to emerge out of comparative obscurity was a certain Gillespie Campbell in the twelfth century, who married the heiress of Lochaw, and was ancestor of the great and historical House of Argyll. The Campbells are probably of Norman descent, despite their barbarous patronymic.

“ This lord,” says Maitland, “ took great pleasure in the company of cunning * men: he was a great setter in music.” He lived during twenty years of King James IV.’s reign, and must have had much in common with his Majesty, who “ himself was skilled both in vocal and instrumental music.” As illustrating a family trait, the love of music, I shall anticipate, and mention the fact that this lord’s great-grandson, Chancellor Seton, persuaded King Charles I., who had been his Ward in minority, to endow a Music School in Musselburgh.

XXI. GEORGE, FIFTH LORD SETON. During his brief career he completed certain portions of the house at Seton, and repaired the great dungeon. He was also a generous benefactor to his Collegiate Church. By his wife, Lady Janet Hepburn, daughter of Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, † he had, besides a daughter Mariota (or Marion), who in 1530 married Hugh, second Earl of Eglinton, three sons, the first and third of whom died young, and the second succeeded to the title. This lord was very familiar with the chivalrous King James IV., and was among the valiant ones who died at

* *Cunning*, in the sense of knowing and skilful in some art or science.

† The Hepburns were an old and powerful race, but of uncertain origin and of an evil destiny. Their founder, Adam Hepburn, came into Scotland from England during the reign of David II., and obtained large grants of land from that complacent monarch. Sir Patrick Hepburn, third Lord Hales, was created Earl of Bothwell in 1488, and raised his family to the foremost rank of the great barons of the kingdom. He married Lady Janet Douglas, only daughter of the Earl of Morton. Their great-grandson and the fourth earl is that James Hepburn whose crimes, particularly against Queen Mary Stuart, caused the just disgrace and ruin of his family.

The name is said to be taken from Hepborne in Northumberland; and this, in my opinion, comes from two old words, *hope*, Anglo-Saxon (later *hepe*, Old English), meaning a bramble-bush, and *bourn* or *burn*, a small stream. The bush would probably be the wild rose, the English dog-rose, the fruit of which was called *hep* and *hip*. A *rose* figures in the Hepburn arms; and this seems to confirm my derivation of the name.

Flodden on September 19, 1513. His body was brought home and buried with great lamentation in the choir of Seton Church beside his father:

“ Sleep in peace with kindred ashes
Of the noble and the true,
Hands that never failed their country,
Hearts that never baseness knew.”

Lady Seton continued a widow until her death, forty-five years after, and was a wise mother to her children and grandchildren and a very pious woman. Sir Richard Maitland enumerates some of her many benefactions to Seton Church—a silver processional cross, sacred vessels, rich and complete sets of vestments, antependiums of fine woven arras, besides adding new furniture to the revestry, founding two more prebends, and enlarging the priest’s chambers near the church, parts of which remain. When her son came of age she retired to the Convent of Saint Catharine of Siena, at Edinburgh, of which she was a large benefactress, as others of her family had been before. The Bull by which its foundation was confirmed is dated January 29, 1517. It was the last religious community brought together in Scotland before the disestablishment of the Catholic Church:

The Douglasses of Glenbervie and the Lauders of Bass joined with the Setons in obtaining the Bull of Pope Leo X.; and John Cant, a pious citizen with his wife Agnes Kerkettel, were also contributors.—WILSON: *Old Edinburgh*, II., 298.

Lady Seton died in this convent in 1558. Her body was honorably transported to Seton, and buried in the choir of the church beside her husband. Saint Catharine’s Convent, commonly called “The Sciennes,” was destroyed at the Reformation, and the inmates dispersed. Nothing now remains of it, and even the site is built over, the only memorial being the name “Saint Catharine’s Place.” Mr. George Seton, a Protestant, an accomplished scholar and antiquarian, erected

within his grounds at Morningside a small cairn with a brief inscription, consisting of stones saved while the ruins of the convent were being demolished. The cairn is now picturesquely overgrown with creeping ivy, and the mansion, appropriately called by him "Saint Bennet's," is the residence of the Catholic Archbishop of Saint Andrew's and Edinburgh, to whom the property has been sold. Near to the site of the former Sciennes, the only house of Dominicanesses in Scot-



THE SETON CAIRN AT EDINBURGH.

land, is the modern Convent of Saint Margaret, where I have said mass, and in which are two Sisters, daughters of my friend and kinswoman Mrs. Coventry, of Burgate House, Hants, whose name, before marriage,

was Catharine Seton. Her father was the late Colonel Seton of Brookheath, Representative of the Earls of Dunfermline.

XXII. GEORGE, SIXTH LORD SETON. He succeeded his father in 1513, and was "a good, wise, and virtuous man." This lord repaired the older parts of Niddry Castle, in his Barony of Wynchburgh, and enlarged it. The top of the old square tower is distinctly seen among the trees as the train from Edinburgh speeds northward:

In former days the traveller to Stirling commonly went by the way of Linlithgow, which is the place where Mary Stuart was born, and he was all the more prompted to think of that enchanting woman because he usually caught a glimpse of the ruins of Niddry Castle—one of the houses of her faithful Lord Seton—at which she rested on the romantic and memorable occasion of her flight from Lochleven.—WILLIAM WINTER: *Gray Days and Gold*, p. 308.

When visited, either by driving out from Edinburgh or by walking from the Wynchburgh Station, it is found to be an

imposing ruin. It is built in a good position, on a slight eminence which rises more abruptly on the north side, where the narrow brook called Niddry Burn once wound around it. The stream has been slightly diverted from its original course by the making of the railroad some fifty years ago. It runs over a pebbly bottom, and keeps up a constant, melancholy



RUINS OF NIDDRY CASTLE.

purling. Before the railroad company built the little stone bridge, there was a ford there. Part of the castle rests on a mass of rocks forming a natural and craggy bulwark. There are still some fine trees, particularly a few old elms, about the place, which must once have been of considerable extent and very strong. A level piece of ground covering two acres, and formerly the castle garden, is surrounded by an old square

wall whose four gates are set each exactly opposite the other. Two of them are arched and ornamented. The farm buildings are also old, and on one of them I noticed the monogram G. H. S., for George Seton (the seventh lord) and (Isabel) Hamilton his wife. Niddry now belongs to the Earl of Hopetoun, whose principal residence is in the vicinity and whose family is wealthy, yet nothing is done to preserve such an interesting and historical monument of Queen Mary's time. When I last was there the entrance to the tower was coarsely boarded up, and a notice read that there was no admittance on account of the dangerous state of the ruin. Maitland describes this Lord Seton as much given to manly games and out-door sports, especially hawking, and says that he was reputed to be "the best falconer in his day." On November 17, 1533, he first appears in public life as an extraordinary Lord among the Senators of the College of Justice, an institution which had only been founded the preceding year.* In 1542 he was associated with Lords Huntly and Home in the command of a strong force organized to watch the operations of the English troops, while King James V. himself assembled a large army at Edinburgh. In March, 1543, he was intrusted with the keeping of Cardinal Beton, who was accused of a treasonable correspondence with France. In May, 1544, Seton Castle was burnt, and the church greatly injured by the English invaders, who carried away everything they could. This unfortunate nobleman died on July 17, 1549, at the Abbey of Culross, and was buried in the choir, because the English then garrisoned Haddington and harried the lands of the Barons round about. When they evacuated the country, his body was conveyed to Seton by his wife and a large company of kinsmen and friends to be entombed in his own church. He was twice married. His first wife—

* *Historical Account of the Senators of the College of Justice in Scotland*, by Sir David Dalrymple of Hailes, Bart.

1527—was Elizabeth Hay, eldest daughter of John, third Lord Yester, by whom he had two boys and five girls. The eldest son, George, succeeded as seventh Lord Seton. John, the second son, founded the Setons of *Cariston* by marrying Isabel, Heiress of David Balfour of Cariston, in the County of Fife, “of a very old-standing family,” which is traced back to Sir Michael Balfour, who died in 1344. Of the five daughters, Beatrix married George, eldest son and heir of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugus. Their grandson was created a peer in 1642 as Baron Ogilvy of Banff, for his eminent services in the royal cause. The title is dormant since 1803.

Helen (Maitland says Eleanor) married Hugh, who succeeded as seventh Lord Somerville, a peerage created in 1430 and dormant since 1872.

Lord Seton married, secondly, a French woman of noble birth, Lady Mary Pyris, who came to Scotland in the suite of Mary of Lorraine, daughter of the Duke of Guise and second wife of King James V., by whom she was the mother of the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots. By this foreign marriage, something most unusual at that time and in Scotland, Lord Seton had two sons, who left no descendants, and an only daughter, who was one of the Four Maries.

XXIII. GEORGE, SEVENTH LORD SETON. He was born in 1531, and succeeded his father in 1549. It was to this “noble and mighty lord” that Maitland dedicated his history of the Seton Family, begun at the request of his father. He was addicted to horse-racing and to hawking in his youth, and on May 10, 1552, won a silver bell which was run for at Haddington, the county town.

Before he was twenty he married Isabel, daughter and heiress of Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar, at the time one of the Senators of the College of Justice and Captain of Edinburgh Castle, a singular combination of Peace and War. She

brought him the Manor of Sorn and other lands in Kyle. A number of gold medals were struck to commemorate this union, on account, especially, of the bride's relationship to the Earl of Arran, Regent of Scotland and Duke of Châtellerault in France. The medal is now very rare. It is described by Francisque Michel in his *Civilization in Scotland* (p. 125), and I have examined one of these medals, at my leisure, in the private office of my friend the late Mr. Reginald Stuart Poole, Curator of the Department of Coins in the British Museum. The Hamiltons have ranked for upward of four hundred years among the most prominent and powerful of the Scottish nobility. Some genealogical writers affirm that they derive their origin from the magnificent Norman race of the de Bellomonts, Earls of Leicester. The Duke of Abercorn is "Heir Male of the House of Hamilton," but the headship, name, and historical traditions of the family are always associated in the popular mind with the Douglas-Hamiltons, Dukes of Hamilton and Brandon, who are Premier Peers of Scotland, and have a reversionary interest in the Crown.

Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar was also Lord-Treasurer to James V., and invited his Majesty to Sorn Castle, in Ayrshire, to be present at the marriage of his daughter to Lord Seton. On the eve of the appointed day the king set out on the journey; "but he had to traverse a long and dreary tract of moor, moss, and miry clay, where there was neither road nor bridge; and when about half-way from Glasgow, he rode his horse into a quagmire, and was with difficulty extricated from his perilous seat on the saddle. Far from a house, exposed to the bleak wind of a cold day, and environed on all sides by a cheerless moor, he was compelled to take a cold refreshment in no better a position than by the side of a very prosaic well; and he at length declared, with more pettishness than wit, that 'if he were to play a trick on the devil, he would send him to a bridal at Sorn in the middle of

winter.'''* The well at which he sat and swore is still there, and is called the King's Well; and the quagmire in which his horse floundered is ironically called the King's Stable. There is now an old inn at the place, on the highroad between Glasgow and Kilmarnock. Soon after coming of age, Lord Seton was elected Provost of Edinburgh, and governed the capital for several tumultuous years with firmness and discretion. On one occasion there was an uproar in the city, whereupon two of the municipal officers hurried out to the Provost at Seton; but he, finding that they were to blame, promptly confined them in his castle dungeon, while he rode into Edinburgh, summoned the guard, and suppressed the riot.† Toward the end of 1557 he was one of the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to be present at the marriage of Queen Mary Stuart with the Dauphin of France, afterward Francis II., on which occasion a magnificent present of silver plate exquisitely wrought by Benvenuto Cellini was made him by the king. This work of art, superior to anything yet seen in Scotland, after serving at banquets prepared for royalty at Winton House and Seton Castle, was finally stolen and beaten to pieces or melted down, in the plunder of the family mansions in 1715. The Setons were always in the forefront of culture, refinement, and progress. As an illustration, it is stated, among other things, in the *Memorie of the Somervilles*, that "the first coach brought to Scotland was by this Lord Seton when Queen Mary came from France." After the marriage of Mary and Francis, he was sent to England to present Queen Mary's portrait to her cousin Queen Elizabeth, and was worthily entertained at the English Court. He returned to France to accompany Queen Mary, now a widow, back to Scotland; and having enjoyed her favor in the hour of prosperity, he was a devoted friend in the days of her adversity.

* *Historical Gazetteer of Scotland*, II., 681.

† Fountainhall: *MS. in the Advocates' Library*.

He was sworn by the young Queen one of her Privy Council, and appointed Master of the Household. He was also a knight of the most noble Order of the Thistle. Nisbet describes a life-size portrait of him at Seton, in which he grasps his official baton, and underneath which were painted in letters of gold the lines:

“ In Adversitate Patiens—
In Prosperitate Benevolus—
Hazard Yet Forward ! ”

a motto which denotes his characteristics of patience, courtesy, and courage. Mottoes were all the vogue among distinguished people in this and the following reign. Under the arms of the celebrated Lord Chancellor Seton, moulded in stucco at Pinkie House, is this one:

“ Nec Cede Adversis Rebus :
Nec Crede Secundis.”

It lacks the chivalrous sentiment of his grandfather's, and smacks too much of the Jesuit Balthasar Gracian's *Art of Worldly Wisdom*.

During the few years of comparative peace and happiness following the Queen's home-coming she was a frequent visitor to Seton, where she would practise archery and play at golf, two games for which the Seton Butts and Seton Links were famous. Chambers, in his *Stories of Old Families*, describes the joyous times at Seton; and the beautiful “Seton Necklace,” sold with other Eglinton heirlooms a few years ago, was a prize won by Mary Seton at golf in a game against the Queen. Maitland mentions some of the architectural improvements and additions of this lord to his principal residence, which had suffered severely from English depredations, being on the direct road from Edinburgh to Berwick. Maitland also tells us how on the 16th of February, 1561, at two o'clock in the morning “the great dungeon of the old tower

of Seton fell to the ground, but as God would have it, it did nobody harm."

The following is a short account of Seton House I wrote about thirty years ago:

"The nucleus of this baronial ruin, formerly the residence

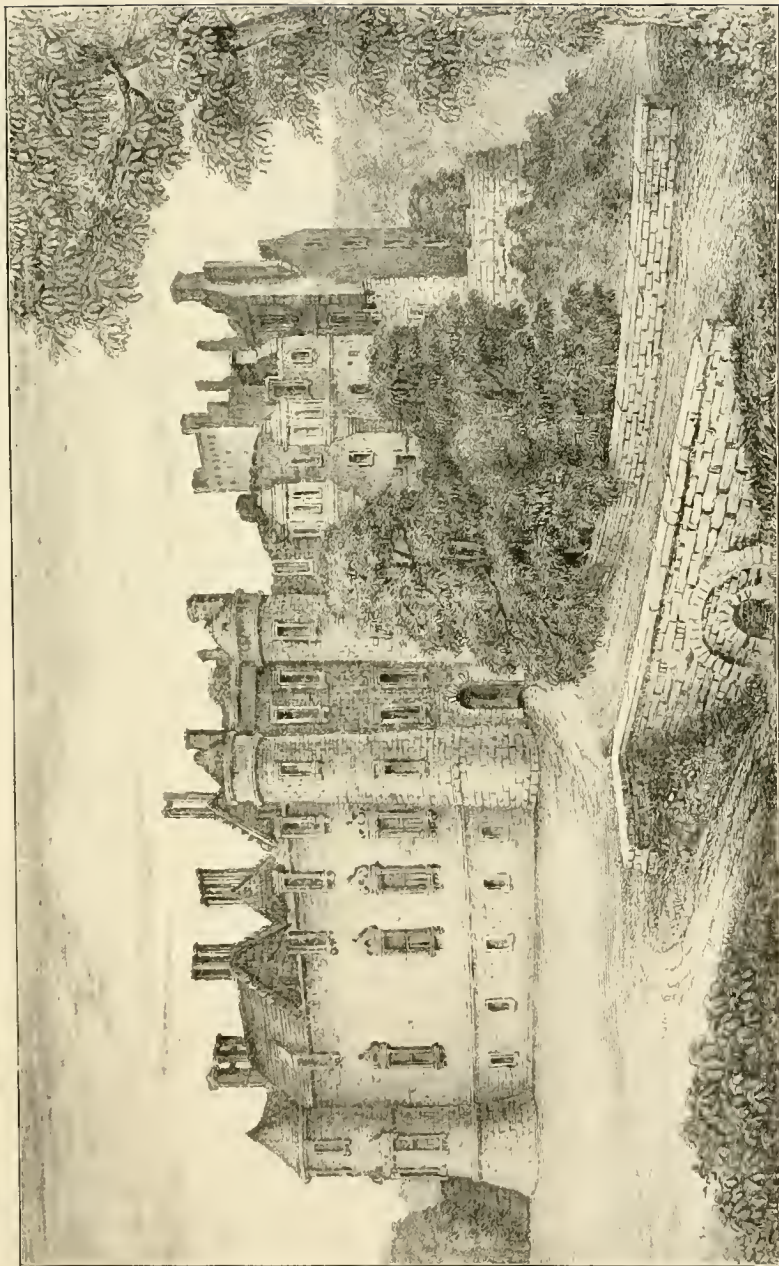


MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, AT SETON.

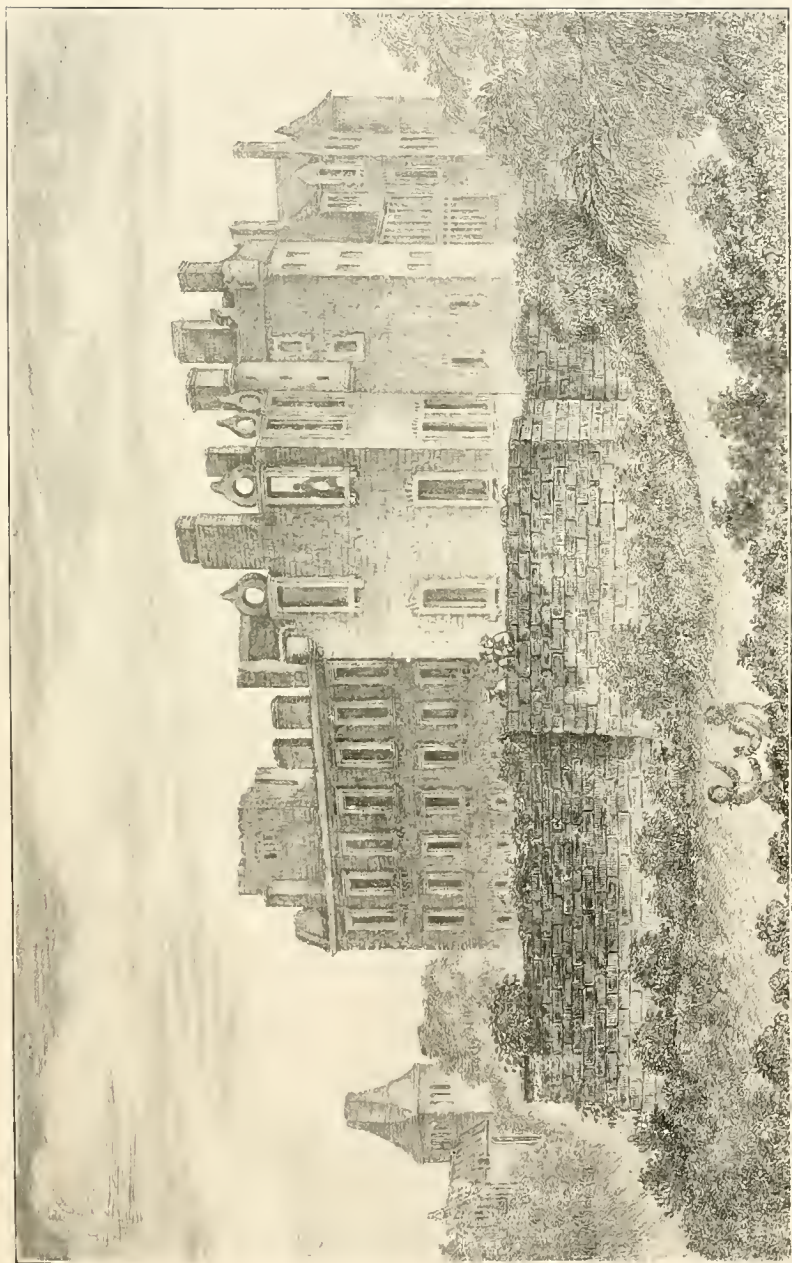
A game of archery.

of the Earls of Winton, is very ancient, some portions of the tower and its surrounding wall still remaining, all ivy-clad, after the lapse of seven hundred years; but the first castle having been in great part destroyed during the long wars with England, a new building was erected about the middle of the sixteenth century, which was esteemed at the period and for many years afterward, much the most magnificently con-

structed and furnished house in Scotland. It was often called, in accordance with the Scotch fashion introduced under the influence of French ideas, the Palace of Seton, because it was so frequently the abode of royalty. This vast and handsome structure occupied a pleasant position in the midst of a well-wooded demesne in East Lothian, on the coast of the Firth of Forth, and took its name from one of the oldest, wealthiest, and most influential families in the kingdom. There is no end of traditions regarding the princely style maintained at Seton. It had been visited in royal progresses by Queen Mary, by her son King James VI., by the unfortunate Charles I., and by the merry monarch Charles II.; and an account of the masques and ceremonies on these occasions would fill a volume. At the Reformation and for almost a century afterward, Seton House was the stronghold of the Catholic party in the South, one of the refuges and hiding-places for the priests, and the first mansion at which the clergy coming from the Continent were received and entertained, after landing in disguise in that part of Scotland. The fourth Earl of Winton, succeeding his grandfather while yet a minor, was brought up a Protestant by a time-serving kinsman who had obtained possession of his person. The last earl lost his titles and estates for participating in the Rebellion of 1715, and was condemned to death, but managed with great ingenuity to escape from the Tower of London, and lived the rest of his life in extreme poverty at Rome, where he died on December 19, 1749. The gardens and orchards around Seton House, which now belong to the Earl of Wemyss and March, a remote descendant of the family which so long flourished there, are still celebrated for the finest and earliest fruits of the season, and the stately oaks and elm-trees in the park remind one even now that the works of nature outlive the greatest efforts of genius; while the solemn and deserted grandeur of Seton Chapel, situated in the



FRONT VIEW OF SETON HOUSE IN RUINS, 1790.



REAR VIEW OF SETON HOUSE IN RUINS, 1790.

immediate neighborhood, and the melancholy ruins of the castle, make one regret that so much should have been needlessly and thanklessly sacrificed in the cause of the most ungrateful and (latterly) most worthless of dynasties.”

Scarcely a fragment remains of this old castle-palace of the Setons. The estates of the forfeited earl having been purchased from the British Government by the York Building



THE SETON CASTLE RAISED BY MACKENZIE ON THE SITE OF THE
OLDER ONE, 1798.

(From a photograph taken from the tower of the church in 1889, by my friend William Dunlop, Esq.)

Company, Seton House was fraudulently bought in at a public sale in 1790 by one of their agents, who, inspired by ignorance and hate, tore down the whole structure—the most perfect specimen in existence of Gallo-Scottish Renaissance—and erected in its place a modern mansion from the designs of John Adam, one of the four sons of the celebrated architect of that name. It has always been a subject of regret to the Earls of Wemyss (Charteris-Douglas) that they were then deprived of the opportunity of becoming, until too late, the proprietors of Seton House, as in that case, they say, they would

have restored it and made it their principal residence instead of Gosford House, on which they have since spent such immense sums. The Setons had also a large and magnificent town house in Edinburgh. Lord Darnley sojourned there in 1565, and about eighteen years later the French ambassador Manzeville. It is referred to in the *Diurnal of Occurrents in Scotland*. "Time has long since dealt with the Canongate Mansion of the Seytons. In Edgar's map of 1742 the ruins still constituted a prominent feature there; but before the century closed they had been displaced by Whitefoord House."* When Gordon of Rothiemay executed his famous Bird's-eye View of Edinburgh in 1647, the Seton lodging stood entire, with its open pleasure-grounds to the north, its close, and its outer and inner courts. The inner court is there shown as a large quadrangle, on a scale only equalled by one or two others among the civic mansions of the time. Readers of Scott are familiar with his description of this place in *The Abbot*, although, after all, Roland Graeme takes us no farther than the vaulted archway and outer court, and a hall dimly lighted by latticed casements of colored glass, and on the walls of which were sculptured religious devices and heraldic shields between hanging arms and suits of mail disposed for ornament as well as use. During some recent excavations, several underground arches which supported the massive structure and served as a domestic prison were brought to light.†

For many years Whitefoord House has been occupied by the Maar Typefounding Company, and has an ill-kept, dirty look about it. On the same side of the street, but higher up, is "Seton's Close," at present numbered 267; and "Seton's Land" is mentioned in a popular song found in a

* Wilson: *Old Edinburgh*, I., 167.

† At an early period in the history of the Popes, the Vice-dominus had jurisdiction over the domestics of the palace, and "the grated prison for such offenders was a chamber deep down among the vaults of the Cellarium Majus of the Lateran."—SETON: *Essays*, p. 204.

manuscript collection formed about 1760, and first printed in Chambers's *Traditions of Edinburgh*, p. 222. While I am on the subject, I may as well quote here what such an authority as Billings says in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland* (Vol. IV.): "Scotland owes many of her architectural ornaments to the munificent taste of the family of Seton. They built Seton Church and the palace adjoining, which has now disappeared. They built, according to their family historian, the old bridge of Musselburgh, which tradition makes a Roman work. That peculiar and beautiful structure, Winton House, was erected as a mansion for the head of the family. Lastly, Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, who added the ornamental parts to Pinkie, was the same who got built for himself the even more stately and beautiful Castle of Fyvie."

The present Seton Castle was long leased by William Dunlop, Esq., who is connected with the family through the marriage of Elizabeth Seton (who died 18th of May, 1612) with Alexander Dunlop. Pinkie was the seat, when I was there, of Sir John Hope, Bart., and Fyvie of A. J. Forbes-Leith, Esq. (whose wife is an American). By these I have been hospitably entertained in places filled with or surrounded by memorials of my family.

Let us return to Lord Seton. When Queen Mary, then at his house, was about to create her half-brother, Lord James Stuart, Earl of Moray, in January, 1561, she proposed to advance her faithful friend also; but he asked—with a pride, perhaps, that apes humility—to be allowed to retain his lower rank, because, as it has been alleged, he preferred to be the premier baron rather than the junior earl. I suspect that there was an *arrière pensée* which he was too perfect a courtier to express, and that the real reason of his refusal was that, Stuart being a bastard and a bad man—

"False to his vows, a wedded priest"—

a gentleman of Lord Seton's high sense of honor—no king

had ever found a mistress of his name and blood—would not share the glory of an earldom in his company. It was on this occasion that the Queen wrote with a diamond ring upon a window of the great hall—called Sampson's Hall—at Seton these Latin verses:

“Sunt comites, ducesque alii, sunt denique reges;
Setoni dominum sit satis esse mihi.”

Sir Walter Scott has rendered them into English:

“Earl, Duke, or King, be thou that list to be:
Seton, thy lordship is enough for me.”

To indicate the unshaken loyalty of himself and family, and express in a single line his religious and political principles, he caused to be carved in stone and filled in with large gilt letters, and then set up over the main entrance to the house which he rebuilt, the following French inscription:

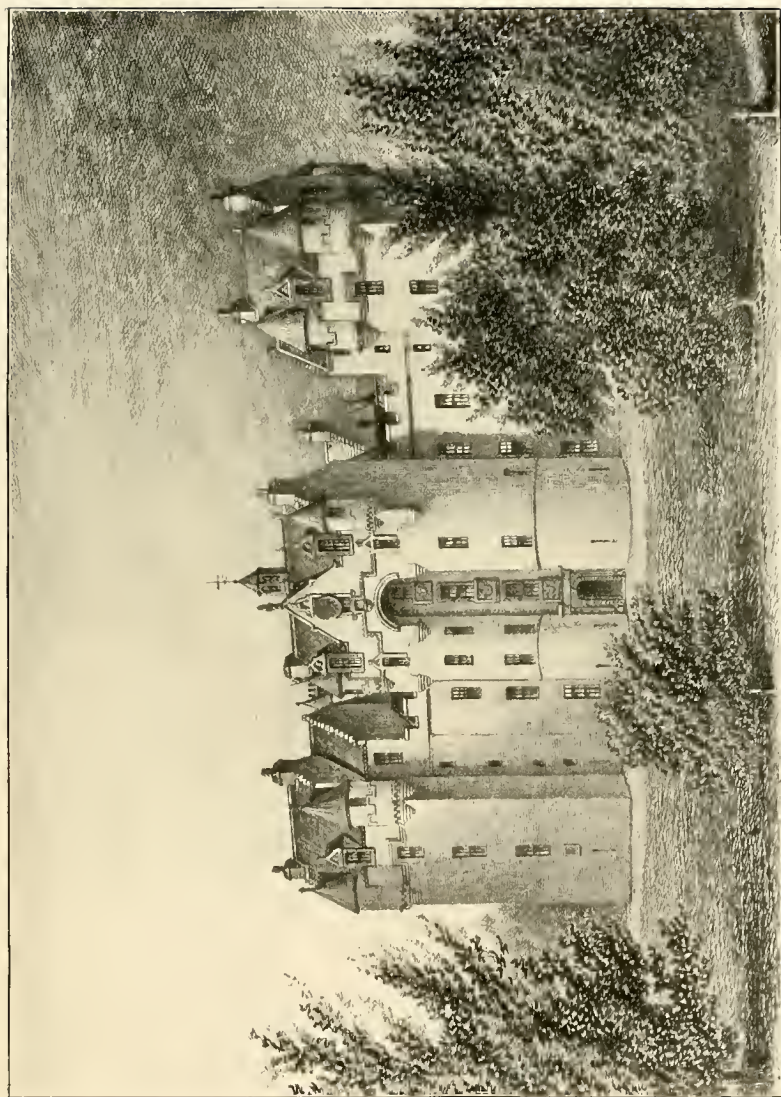
“Un Dieu, Une Foy, Un Roy, Une Loy.”

In June, 1567, Queen Mary and Bothwell, with several lords who had answered their unhappy sovereign's appeal, and a considerable force assembled for battle on Carberry Hill. In Aytoun's poem of *Bothwell* Lord Seton is described at the moment:

He was a noble of a stamp
Whereof this age hath witnessed few;
Men who came duly to the camp,
Whene'er the Royal trumpet blew.
Blunt tenure lords, who deemed the Crown
As sacred as the Holy Tree,
And laid their lives and fortunes down
Not caring what the cause might be.

—VI., 15.

Lord Seton's gallant rescue of Queen Mary from her captivity in Lochleven Castle in May, 1568, is the most romantic episode in her life and in his own career. After her escape she rested for several days at his castle of Niddry; and it is of her stay there, to give time for her adherents to assemble under the Hamiltons, that Miss Strickland says: “She



FYVIE CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

stood a Queen once more, among the only true nobles of her realm, those whom English gold had not corrupted, nor successful traitors daunted." A brief inscription on an oblong stone tablet—*George Lord Seton of His Age 36, 1567*—long commemorated this nobleman over one of the windows of the castle. It has recently disappeared, but by great good fortune a sketch of it was made in 1852, and is engraved in Ballingall's *Edinburgh Past and Present*, p. 78. As is well known, the disastrous battle of Langside destroyed Queen Mary's party. Lord Seton here displayed the hereditary valor of his race, repeatedly charging the rebel heights with the cry, "God and the Queen! Set on! Set on!" He was wounded and taken prisoner, and came near being put to death. "When he was brought into the presence of Moray, he was bitterly rebuked by him as having been the prime author and the chief performer in this tragedy; whereas according to Moray, it was his duty to have been one of the first to protect the infant king. Seton answered that he had given his fidelity to one prince, and that he would keep it as long as he lived, or until the Queen should have laid down her right of government of her own free will. Irritated by the reply, Moray asked him to say what he himself thought his own punishment ought to be, and threatened that he should undergo the extreme severity of the law. 'Let others decide,' said Seton, 'what I deserve. On that point my conscience gives me no trouble, and I am well aware that I have been brought within your power, and am subject to your will. But I would have you know that even if you cut off my head, as soon as I die there will be another Lord Seton.' " *

As it was, he got imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but after a year's confinement went into exile. He lived thus two years in great poverty and distress in Flanders and

* *Memoirs of Mary, Queen of Scots* (Claude Nau). Edited by Rev. Joseph Stevenson, S.J., p 173.

Holland, where he came into relations with Alva, and brought himself into serious trouble, which might have ended fatally, by trying to bring the Scots regiments then in the service of the rebellious States over to the Spanish side.* Lord Seton returned to Scotland in January, 1571, and is then constantly mentioned in letters and state papers, and always as an incorruptible and untiring agent of the imprisoned Queen and of the Catholic cause. In Bellesheim's *History of the Catholic Church in Scotland*, III., p. 241, he says:

"An interesting glimpse of the condition of Scottish Catholics at this time is given us by the letter sent to Pope Gregory on February 15, 1574, by John Irving, a Knight of Malta, from his prison in Edinburgh.

"Irving, who attributes his present situation to the action of informers, affirms his adherence to the Catholic faith, for which he is ready by God's grace to endure every extremity. He mentions, as one of the most faithful of the Scottish nobles, Lord Seton, who had made great sacrifices in the cause of religion and who, together with his three sons, had been excommunicated by the Established Church.

"The writer adds that Lord Seton has under consideration various plans for the restoration of the Catholic faith in Scotland, which he doubts not will meet with the approbation of his Holiness."

In November, 1583, Lord Seton was sent ambassador to the King of France (Henry III.), and letters were subsequently written to King James VI. by the Duke of Lorraine, the Cardinals of Guise and Bourbon, and others relative to his embassy and commending his diligence, zeal, judgment, and unswerving loyalty.

An interesting letter from this Lord Seton to Pope Gregory XIII. is published in Theiner's *Annals*, and the following is a translation from Father Forbes-Leith's *Narratives of Scottish Catholics under Mary Stuart and James VI.*:

LORD SETON TO POPE GREGORY XIII.

"TO OUR MOST HOLY LORD.—I need not explain to your Holiness the part which I have taken in defending the Catholic religion, and the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, for I would rather leave this to others.

* Burton : *The Scot Abroad*, p. 320.

" Having been sent hither by my most serene master, the King of Scots, to implore the aid of the most Christian King, in our dreadful emergencies, I could not do otherwise than write to your Holiness some account of the state of our affairs. Briefly, after the ministers had succeeded in sending the Duke of Lennox away from Scotland, the King was so offended that he would hold no communication with them, though previously he had always acted in accordance with their advice. They took offence in turn, and set on foot a violent insurrectionary movement against his authority, partly by means of the agents of the Queen of England, and partly through their own rebel leaders.

" Being reduced to extremity, he has implored the aid of the most Christian King, and more particularly that of his relative, the Duke of Guise ; a proceeding which has raised the hopes of Catholics to the highest point.

" So favourable an opportunity never occurred before, and could not have been expected or looked for ; and it is doubly important that it should not be lost. The King has so high an opinion of the Duke of Guise, that we are in hopes he will be guided in everything by his advice ; indeed, he has not only written as much to the Duke, but has charged me with a message to the same effect.

" Our hope is that your Holiness will both animate and encourage the Duke to make some effort in the cause of religion, and also give him substantial assistance.

" God himself, beyond all our hopes, seems to have provided your Holiness with this opportunity of extending religion and obtaining never-ending glory. The King's age, his perilous and critical position, the unbridled insolence of the ministers, are all circumstances in our favour. But it is of the utmost importance to lose no time, or the chance will pass away.

" The Queen of England is straining every nerve to crush the King of Scots by a rebellion in his own country, and if successful, she will suppress the Catholic religion altogether. The Duke of Guise, to whom I have transmitted the King of Scotland's letter for your Holiness, will doubtless explain matters in detail. But I would implore your Holiness not to let the existence of these communications be known to anyone, for this would, at the present juncture, place the King in the most extreme difficulty.

" At a later period we hope, by the aid of your Holiness, that he will be free to declare himself openly a son of your Beatitude. At present he is so situated and so completely in the power of his enemies, that he is scarcely at liberty to do anything whatever ; from this condition it is for your Beatitude to rescue him. God preserve you long to his Church.

" Your Holiness's most humble servant,

" SETON."

" PARIS, *March 14, 1584.*"

A portrait of this nobleman by Holbein was long in the possession of the Somervilles ; but by far the most interesting

one is the group by Sir Antonio More, which has been engraved by Pinkerton in his Scottish *Iconographia*, and is also in the possession of the representative of the last Lord Somerville. This famous composition consists of Lord Seton in his thirty-ninth year, his daughter and four sons. It has been enthusiastically described by Sir Walter Scott in the *Provincial Antiquities* (II., 139), who there calls attention to "the grave, haughty, and even grim cast of countenance" which distinguishes them all. In July, 1882, at the disposal of the Hamilton Palace collection, a beautiful miniature of "George, Lord Setone, ætatis suæ 27," by H. Bone, R.A., after an original in the Somerville family, was sold to Mr. Denison for £131, equal to \$655.

There are also exquisite *vis-à-vis* miniature portraits of Lord and Lady Seton at the top of the Armorial Pedigree of Touch in the possession of the Seton-Steuarts, Baronets.

After a life of trying vicissitudes, during which he had seen the subversion of the Ancient Faith, the captivity of his sovereign Mistress, and the establishment of the Protestant Religion in Scotland, Lord Seton died on the 8th of January, 1585, and was buried in his family church, where, on a slab of black marble embedded in the wall, there is a lengthy epitaph from the pen of his son Alexander, who was an elegant Latin scholar. It is now in parts defaced and indistinct.

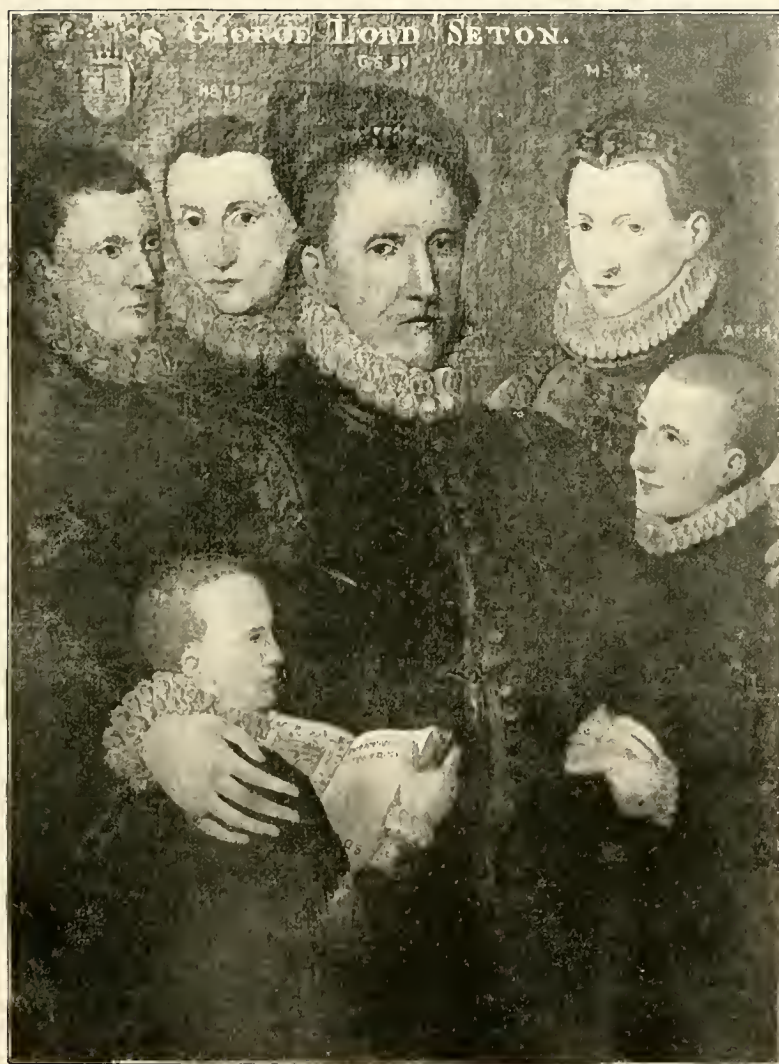
EPITAPH OF GEORGE, SEVENTH LORD SETON, AND ISABELLA HAMILTON HIS WIFE, IN SETON CHURCH.

(From a copy made in 1767 for the Marquess of Abercorn, and now in the possession of the Rev. Father Forbes-Leith, S.J., of Selkirk.)

"D. O. M.

"Ad Australe Sacelli hujus latus condita sunt Corpora Georgii Setonii & Isabelle Hamiltoniæ nobilissimarum et æterna memoria dignissimarum Animarum Domicilia.

"Georgius hoc nomine Quintus, Setonii Dominus et Familiæ Princeps, Latifundia et Rem a majoribus tradita, difficillimis Reipub: temporibus honorifice tenuit et ampliavit. Jacobo Quinto regnante natus. Adolescens,



THE SETON PORTRAIT GROUP.

(By Sir Antonio More.)

cum in Galliis ageret, Patre optimo orbatus. Ad suos reversus, brevi post Regni Ordinum Decreto eodem remittitur, ibique unus Legatorum Mariæ Reginae et Francisci Franciæ Delphini nuptias et antiqua Gallorum Scotorumque Fœdera sancivit firmavitque. Domum regressus, Religionis et Sacrorum Innovatione, bellis tum externis tum civilibus flagrantem Patriam invenit, cum in Scotia Anglus Gallusque Germanus et Hispanus, Scoti etiam inter se dimicarent. Ædes suas bis terque ab Anglis incensas et funditus deletas, devastatis etiam Prædiis omnibus, in ampliorem denuo splendidioremque formam restituit. In omnem Fortunam liber semper et intrepidus, trucidato a perditissimis hominibus Rege, acta in Exilium Regina a Principum Patribus, Majorum more semper constans stetit. Hac firmitate sæpe carceri et custodia afflictus, sæpe in exilium actus, et bonis omnibus exutus, ejusmodi calamitates innumeras, Fidei in Patriam et veros Principes Testes, forti animo non modo tulit sed sprexit & superavit. Tandem ab Jacobo Sexto, cujus auspiciis, Prudentia et Consiliis, Scotia procellis omnibus et difficultatibus liberata, splendori suo restituta est, Ipse etiam honorifice pro meritis acceptus et habitus, majorum suorum Locum et Dignitatem tenuit, primusque ab eo ad Hen. III. Galliarum Regem Legatus, cum amplissimis ad firmandam Amicitiam mandatis mittitur. Quo in munere cum gratam acceptamque utrique Principum operam navaret, lethalem ipsi morbum antea vitæ labores adferunt, in Patriam redit, intra mensem ad Superos migrat, VI. Id. Jan. An. Domini CIOCLXXXV, Ætat. circiter LV.

“ Domina Isabella Hamiltonia nobilissimis Parentibus nata, Patre nimirum D. Willielmo de Sanquhar Equite et Matre Katherina Kennedie Cassilissae Comitissae Filia, Ipsa Forma, Moribus, omnibusque tum Animi tum Corporis dotibus insignis, et inter æquales præstans : Georgium hunc Setonii Dominum maritum nactam in adversis illi omnibus Adjumento et Solatio, in prosperis Ornamento fuit.

“ Conjugi charissimo duodeviginti annos superstes cum communibus Liberis liberaliter et conjunctissime vixit ; Quidquid a marito Fortunarum acceperat, cum Natis amanter communicavit, eorumque conatus omnes et honesta studia Bonis suis fovit et promovit, nec exiguos Pietatis hujus et maternæ Charitatis fructus vivens percepit. Liberorum muneribus, Dignitatibus et ornamentis, Ipsa quoque clarior et illustrior, donec senio et articulorum Doloribus morbisque afflicta, Deo animam reddidit II. Id. Novemb. Anno Domini CIOICVI, Annum agens circiter LXXV.

“ Tam claris Parentibus orta est hæc Soboles.

“ Robertus Setonus primogenitus et primus Wentoniæ Comes hoc Titulo ob propria et majorum merita ab Jacobo Sexto ornatus.

“ Joannes Eques eidem Regi imprimis charus, ab intimis consiliis, Questura et pluribus muneribus auctus, in flore ætatis e vivis sublatus, Liberis tamen relictis.

“ Alexander multis annis Senator, et ab intimis Consiliis tum Princeps Senatus ab ipso ordine electus, demum a Rege prudentissimo qui primus

Scotiam Angliamque in unum contulit Dominatum, utriusque Regni Consiliorum Particeps, Fermelinoduni comes, et Regni Scotiæ factus est Cancellarius.

“Willielmus Eques, Louthianæ Vicecomes et unus tum Scotiæ tum Angliæ limitum e Præfectis et Procuratoribus.

“Margareta Filia, Claudio Hamiltonio Pasleto Domino nupto, Jacobi primi Abercorniæ Comitissæ Mater, totiusque illius prosapiæ Fratrum Sororumque dicti Comitissæ Fæcunda Parens.

“Hæc Posteriores norint, et tanti Viri spectatæque adeo Fœminæ memoriam colant. Virtutes æmulentur, bonisque Moribus bona verba.

“Magnorum Virorum Memoria non minus utilis est quam Præsentia.

“A. S.* CIOIOCX

“A. S. F. C. F. F.”†

THE EPITAPH OF LORD SETON AND HIS LADY, TRANSLATED FROM THE
LATIN ON A MARBLE SLAB IN SETON CHAPEL.

(From a MS. in the possession of the Earl of Wemyss.)

“Near the south side of this chapel are deposited the bodies, once the habitations of the souls, of GEORGE SETON and ISABEL HAMILTON; souls truly noble, and worthy of everlasting remembrance. George, of this name the 5th, honourably possessed and enlarged the ample estates and fortune transmitted to him by his ancestors in times of great disturbance in the country. He was born in the reign of James the Fifth. Being deprived of his most worthy father, when he was a young man, living in France, he returned home, and in short time afterwards, by a decree of the Estates of the Kingdom, he is sent back to France, and there, as one of the Ambassadors, he negotiated and ratified the marriage between Queen Mary and Francis, Dauphin of France, and the antient treaties between the French and Scots. Upon his return home, he found his country involved in the flames, both of foreign and civil wars, upon the change of religion and the forms of worship: when within Scotland, the English and French, the Germans and Spaniards, were engaged in war, and the Scots also fighting among themselves, his house having been more than once burnt to the ground, and entirely demolished, and all his estates ravished by the English, he restored the whole anew upon a scale more extensive, and in a style more magnificent. In every change of fortune always independant and undaunted, when his King was murdered by the most abandoned of men, and the Queen being driven into exile by the faction of the nobles, he, like his brave ancestors, always stood unmoved. For this steady loyalty being often imprisoned and kept in close confinement, often banished his country, and

* Anno Salutis.

† Alexander Setonus Fermelinoduni Comes Fieri Fecit.

stripped of all his fortune, he not only sustained with fortitude, but even despised and surmounted innumerable distresses of that kind, which bore witness of his faithful attachment to his country, and his loyalty to its rightful Sovereigns. At length, upon the accession of James the Sixth, by whose auspicious government, prudence, and counsels, Scotland was delivered from all its tempests and distresses, and restored to its antient splendor, he too was honourably received, and treated according to his merit, recovered his rank and dignity of his ancestors, and was sent by the King as his chief ambassador to Henry the Third King of France, with the most ample powers to confirm the alliance between them. In this high office, when he was performing services to the satisfaction, and with the favour of both Princes, the labours of his past life bring upon him a fatal disease. He returned to his own country, and within a month after he went hence to a better state, on the 8th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1585, about the 55th year of his age.

“ Dame Isabell Hamilton sprung from parents of noble birth ; her father being Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar, and her mother Catherine Kennedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassils, was herself distinguished for beauty, moral excellence, and all accomplishments both of mind and body ; standing high in these respects among the ladies of her age. Having got this George Lord Seton for her husband, she was his support and comfort in all his adversities, and his ornament in prosperity.

“ Surviving her dearest husband 18 years, she lived in a liberal and most affectionate manner with their common children.

“ All the jointure she had received from her husband she chearfully shared with them in common, and with her substance cherished and promoted all their honourable endeavours and studies ; nor did she reap in her own life time scanty fruits of this pious attention and maternal love, being herself rendered more respectable and illustrious, by the high offices, dignities, and honours of her children, until worn out with age, and afflicted with the gout, and other diseases, she resigned her soul to God, on the 13th. of Nov. 1604, being about 75 years of age.

“ Off these so illustrious parents this was the issue :—

“ 1st, Robert Seton, their eldest son, the first Earl of Winton, honoured with this title by James the Sixth for his own merits and those of his ancestors.

“ 2nd, Sir John, very high in favour with the same King ; made a privy counsellor, and raised to be lord high treasurer, and other great offices.

“ He was carried off in the flower of his age ; yet leaving children behind him.

“ 3d, Alexander, many years a judge of the Supreme Court, and a privy counsellor ; then chosen president of the Court of Session, by the Court itself. was at length made a privy counsellor of both kingdoms, by that wise being who first connected Scotland and England by the tie of a common

Sovereign, and was created Earl of Dunfermline and counsellor * of the kingdom of Scotland.

" 4th, William, sheriff of Lothian ; and one of the lords wardens and administrators of the marches of Scotland and England.

" 5th, a daughter, Margaret, married to Claud Hamilton, Lord of Paisley, mother of James, the first Earl of Abercorn, and the fruitful parent of all that flourishing family of brothers and sisters.

" Let posterity know these things, and honour the memory of so great a man, and so distinguished a woman ; let them imitate their virtues, and wish sweet repose to their pious souls.

" The memory of great men is no less useful than their presence."

By his marriage with Isabel Hamilton, Lord Seton left four sons and a daughter :

1. Robert, first Earl of Winton.
2. Sir John Seton of Barnes.
3. Alexander, first Earl of Dunfermline.
4. Sir William Seton of Kyllismuir.
5. Margaret, who married Claude Hamilton, created Lord Paisley. Their son was the first Earl of Abercorn, ancestor of the present duke. This marriage took place " with great triumph " at Niddry Castle on the 1st of August, 1574.

* A mistake for chancellor.

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1548-1615.

MARY SETON. Mary Seton was the only daughter of the sixth lord by his second wife, and consequently she was half-sister to the seventh lord, of whom I have written. She was one of the "Four Maries" celebrated in song and tradition, daughters of Scottish noblemen, all of the same age and Christian name as Mary Stuart. They were brought up as her playmates at the Priory of Inchmahome, on an islet in the lake of Monteith under the shadow of the Highlands, and afterward accompanied her as little maids of honor when she was taken to France in childhood. Mary Seton was the fairest, most devoted, and best beloved of them all. The words of the old ballad founded on the dying lament of one of the four are remembered even now:

"Yestreen the Queen had four Maries,
This night she'll have but three;
There was Mary Seton, and Mary Beton,
And Mary Carmichael, and Me."*

They remained in France from 1548 to 1561, receiving there a finished education.† Mary Seton was the only one who never married, although not for want of noble suitors, among whom the most ardent and persistent was Andrew Beton, nephew of the murdered Cardinal and brother of the

* The ballad of "The Queen's Marie" is preserved in the *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, and was communicated by the accomplished antiquary Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe.

† *La Première Jeunesse de Marie Stuart*, Paris, 1891.

then Archbishop of Glasgow. He was a faithful friend and servant of the Queen; but Mary Seton had cherished from her earliest years, amid the monastic cloisters of Inchmahome, a pious inclination to retire from the world, when she could do so without seeming to desert her unfortunate sovereign, whose captivity she shared both in Scotland and in England.* Once on being pressed by her kind-hearted mistress to marry, she declared the secret of her life—that she was not free to do so, having made a vow of virginity. She would never admit an earthly bridegroom.

Finally, in September, 1583, she obtained the Queen's permission to retire from her service and fulfil her desire of entering a convent. She became a nun at Saint Pierre-aux-Dames in Rheims, of which house the Queen's aged aunt, Rénée de Lorraine, was abbess; and died there some time after 1615. I have had in my hands a letter, preserved in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, from Mary Seton to the Countess of Roxburgh, dated from Rheims, September, 1614. The most curious of the several existing memorials of Mary Seton is a Memento Mori Watch, now in the possession of the Dick-Lauder family. Their baronetcy goes back to 1670. Sir John Lauder, Bart., married Margaret, daughter of Sir Alexander Seton of Pitmedden, Bart., a Senator of the College of Justice by the title of Lord Pitmedden. James W. Benson, in his interesting little book on *Time and Time Tellers*, London, 1875, gives a picture of it and a description, part of which is as follows:

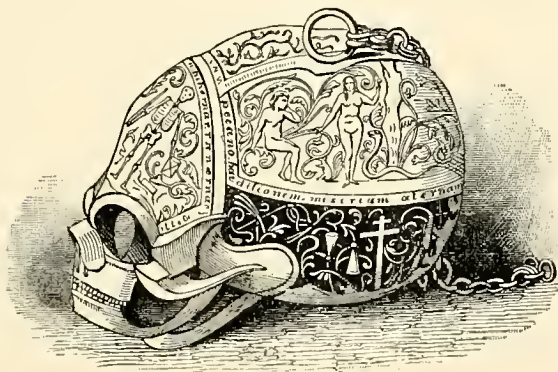
“It was not an unusual thing for religious persons who used rosaries at their devotions, to add to their beads a miniature skull, with a view it may be to remind themselves of the frailty of life by way of stimulus to the preparation for the future state.

“When watches were invented the Memento Mori death's head was made into a watch-case, as in the illustration. The Lauder family, of Grange and

* *In Ladies' Company: Six Interesting Women*, by Mrs. Fenwick Miller.

Fountain Hall, possess the Memento Mori Watch there engraved, they having inherited it from their ancestors, the Setoun family.

"It was given by Queen Mary to Mary Setoun, of the House of Wintoun, one of the four Marys, maids of honour to the Scottish Queen. This very curious relic must have been intended to be placed on a prie-dieu, or small altar, in a private oratory ; for it is too heavy to have been carried in any way attached to the person. The watch is of the form of a skull ; on the forehead is the figure of Death, standing between a palace and a cottage ; around is this legend from Horace : ' Pallida mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas Regumque turres.' On the hind part of the skull is a figure of Time, with another legend from Horace : ' Tempus edax rerum tuque invidiosa vetustas.' The upper part of the skull bears representations of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and of the crucifixion, each with Latin legends ; and between these scenes is open-work, to let out the sound when the watch strikes the hours upon a small silver bell, which fills the hollow of the skull and receives the works within it when the watch is shut."



MARY SETON'S WATCH.

marie de seton

AUTOGRAPH FROM HER WILL.

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1585-1716.

ROBERT SETON, FIRST EARL OF WINTON. On the death of George, seventh Lord Seton, in 1585, he was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Robert, as eighth lord. Although his father left the estates heavily encumbered by reason of the great expense of several embassies and of his losses suffered by adhering to the Queen's party, yet by prudence and ability he was soon able to put his affairs in good condition and provide both sons and daughters with respectable fortunes. "He was very hospitable, and kept a noble house, the king and queen being frequently there, and all French and other ambassadors and strangers of quality were nobly entertained." * He was a favorite with the king, and was created Earl of Winton with solemnity and pomp of banners, standards, and pennons inscribed with loyal mottoes and quaint devices at Holyrood House, on the 16th of November, 1600. He was a great builder and a wise improver of his property, especially by working on the old harbor of Cockenzie, along the most rugged part of the Firth of Forth, a curious fishing village of great antiquity whose history is little known. It originally sheltered only small boats, but when improved by art accommodated vessels of a larger size. In January, 1599, the king granted him a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland concerning Cockenzie, which had pre-

* Lord Kingston's *Continuation of Maitland's History*, p. 59.

viously been erected into a "free port and burgh of barony." Adhering to the Catholic religion, the earl and his family suffered indignities from the Presbytery of Haddington, as may be seen by the Records. One entry reads thus:

"1597. Setoun Kirk. The Presbiterie asked Lord Setoun if he will suffer them to sit in the Kirk of Setoun for the space of two or three days, because they are to 'gang about' all the churches within their bounds; but this his Lordship altogether refused."

I believe that Protestant worship has never been held in Seton Church, as after the family conformed they attended Tranent parish church, leaving their own church deserted, as it has remained ever since.*

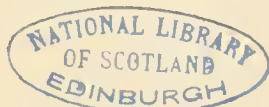
In 1582 Lord Seton, as he then was, married Lady Margaret Montgomerie, oldest daughter of Hugh, third Earl of Eglinton, by whom he had five sons and a daughter:

1. Robert, second Earl of Winton.
2. George, third Earl of Winton.
3. Sir Alexander Seton of Foulstruther, who succeeded as sixth Earl of Eglinton, and in descent from whom is the present Earl of Eglinton and Winton, Lord Montgomerie, Ardrossan, Baron Seton and Tranent, etc.
4. Sir Thomas Seton of Olivestob.
5. Sir John Seton of St. Germain's.
6. Lady Isabel Seton.

The Earls of Eglinton derive their family name from a hill-fortress, called *Montgomerie*,† in the Diocese of Lisieux. Its lord ranked high among the nobles of Normandy. The first

* The old parish of Seton, which remained intact until the Reformation, was thereafter annexed to the parish of Tranent.—MCNEILL: *Hist. of Tranent*, p. 15.

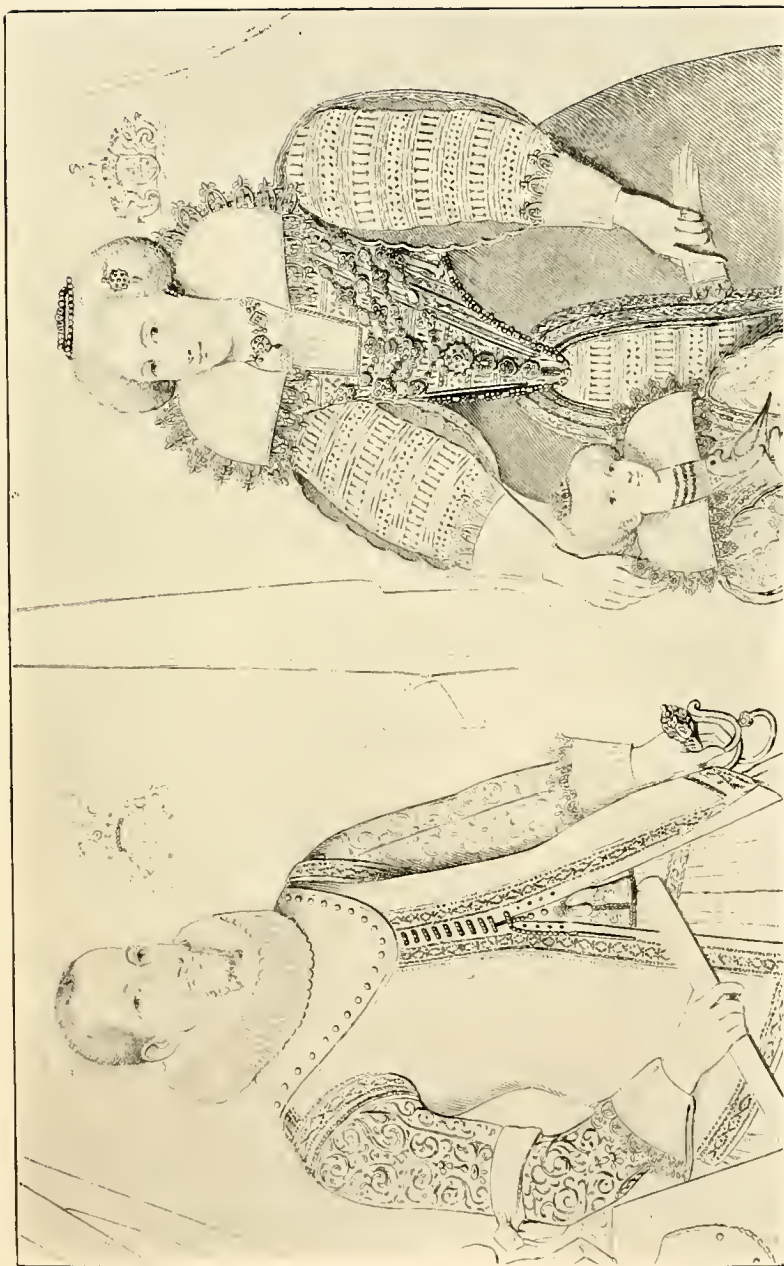
† Freeman says: "The name of this castle enjoys a peculiar privilege above all others in Norman geography. Other spots in Normandy have given their names to Norman houses, and these Norman houses have transferred those names to English castles and English towns and villages. But there is only one shire in Great Britain which has had the name of a Norman lordship impressed upon it forever."



who came to England was Roger de Montgomerie. He commanded the van of the army at the decisive battle of Hastings, and proudly styled himself "Northmannus Northmannorum." After the conquest he was made Earl of Shrewsbury, and given no fewer than fifty-seven lordships. His descendants have disappeared in England; but one of them, Robert de Montgomerie, during the movement of Normans into Scotland, in the twelfth century, obtained the Manor of Eaglesham, in Renfrewshire. It remained for two centuries the seat of the family, until John, the seventh Laird of Eaglesham, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh de Eglinton of that Ilk, and obtained through her, who was niece to King Robert II., the important Baronies of Eglinton and Ardrossan. These still abide in the family, and the former gave the title of Earl to the descendant of Sir Robert de Montgomerie in 1508. The male line of this family failed in 1611, when the honors and estates went to the last earl's nephew, third son of the first Earl of Winton. Sir Alexander Seton, who thus succeeded, was surnamed "Grey Steel," from his intrepid character and quickness to draw his sword. His succession to the great Earldom of Eglinton was hotly contested for a time; but it can be said of him, as of another and later Scotchman: "His spirit was so high that those who wished his death knew that his courage was like his charity, and never turned any man away." Sir Alexander Seton married Lady Ann Livingston, daughter of the first Earl of Linlithgow. Their fourth son, James, a colonel in the army, was founder of the Montgomeries of Coilsfield, one of whom succeeded as twelfth Earl of Eglinton. It is to them that Burns alludes in his beautiful poem, *The Vision*:

"There, where a sceptred *Pictish shade* *
Stalk'd round his ashes lowly laid,

* Coilus, or Coil, King of the Picts, lies buried—so tradition says—near the family seat of the Montgomeries of Coilsfield. Hence the name of their estate.



ROBERT SETON, FIRST EARL OF WINTON, LADY MARGARET MONTGOMERIE HIS WIFE, AND THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER, LADY ISABELLA SETON, COUNTESS SUCCESSIVELY OF PERTH AND OF BOTHWELL.

I mark'd a martial race portray'd
 In colours strong ;
 Bold, soldier-featur'd, undismay'd
 They strode along."

Lady Isabel Seton was born 30th November, 1593, and married first, 19th April, 1608, James Drummond, first Earl of Perth, by whom she had one child, a daughter, who married the thirteenth Earl of Sutherland; secondly, 2d August, 1614, Francis Stewart, eldest son of the attainted Earl of Bothwell, by whom she had a daughter, Margaret, and a son, Charles Stewart, born in 1618, the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the dashing Cavalier in *Old Mortality*. Scot of Scotstarvet, always gloating over the ruin of a noble house, says that he was "a trooper in the Civil Wars." Only a private—but Sir Walter Scott, in a note on Sergeant Bothwell in his tale, says that "Captain Crichton, the friend of Dean Swift, who published his *Memoirs*, found him a private gentleman in the king's Life-Guards. At the same time, this was no degrading condition; for Fountainhall records a duel fought between a Life Guardsman and an officer in the Militia, because the latter had taken upon him to assume superior rank as an officer, to a gentleman-private in the Life-Guards." Francis Stewart was, in fact, third cousin to Charles II., whom he was serving. The first earl of the Stewart line received this title from James in 1587, "in consideration of his descent from the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell." His mother, Lady Jane Hepburn, was the only daughter of Patrick, third earl.

Lady Perth was a woman of superior education and strength of character. She captivated the literary attention of the celebrated poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden, her husband's kinsman, and a friend of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. He corresponded with her, and wrote an epitaph in verse for

the tomb of her first husband, who died at Seton, in his twentieth year, on December 18, 1611.

There are fortunately preserved at Dunse Castle, County Berwick, seat of a branch of the noble family of Hay, which represents, through female descent, the Setons, Viscounts Kingston, portraits of the first Earl of Winton, his Countess, and Lady Isabel or Isabella Seton, their only daughter. It was to this young girl that the Scottish poet, Alexander Montgomerie, addressed a laudatory sonnet in 1607. These portraits are supposed to be copies by Jameson, who has joined husband and wife, says Mr. Sharpe, from separate representations, very awkwardly, on one canvas. This is his opinion, but it is not certain.*

The bird on Lady Isabella's hand is a "Love-parrot," the *Psittacus Amazonicus* of authors, at that time a rare and expensive bird in Europe, and a favorite one with the children of nobles. It was highly prized for its mimic propensities; and I have no doubt that it was brought from South America by the same fellow—retiring to Port Seton after buccaneering on the Spanish Main—who gave the beautiful shell subsequently made into a silver-mounted snuffbox. The Earl of Winton died on the 22d of March, 1603, and by his Latter Will, dated 28th February, 1603, he ordains "My body to be buried whole in most humble, quiet, modest, and Christian manner without all extraordinary pomp or unlawful ceremony, within my College Church of Seton among my progenitors of worthy memory." I suspect that by the words *unlawful ceremony*, the staunch old Catholic nobleman wished to say that he didn't want any Protestant interference or Kirk rites about him after death, as he hadn't brooked them in life. He was buried on Tuesday, April 5th, on the same day that

* George Jameson, called by Walpole (*Anecdotes of Painting*) the Vandyck of Scotland, was born in 1586, and studied under Rubens at Antwerp in 1616.

King James the Sixth of Scotland set out from Edinburgh for London to become James First of England. And now a singular thing happened, the more so that the simple tastes of the late earl and his abhorrence of display at his funeral were suddenly upset. Patrick Frazer Tytler thus moralizes on the inauspicious occurrence in concluding his *History of Scotland*:

“Yet, however pleased at this pacific termination of their long struggles, the feelings with which his ancient people beheld the departure of their prince, were of a melancholy nature; and an event occurred on the same day on which he set out, that made a deep impression upon a nation naturally thoughtful and superstitious.

“As the monarch passed the house of Seton, near Musselburgh, he was met by the funeral of Lord Seton, a nobleman of high rank; which, with its solemn movement and sable trappings, occupied the road, and contrasted strangely and gloomily with the brilliant pageantry of the royal cavalcade. The Setons were one of the oldest and proudest families of Scotland; and that lord, whose mortal remains now passed by, had been a faithful adherent of the king's mother: whose banner he had never deserted, and in whose cause he had suffered exile and proscription. The meeting was thought ominous by the people. It appeared, to their excited imaginations, as if the moment had arrived when the aristocracy of Scotland was about to merge in that of Great Britain; as if the Scottish nobles had finished their career of national glory, and this last representative of their race had been arrested on his road to the grave, to bid farewell to the last of Scotland's kings. As the mourners moved slowly onward, the monarch himself, participating in these melancholy feelings, sat down by the way-side, on a stone still pointed out to the historical pilgrim; nor did he resume his progress till the gloomy procession had completely disappeared.”

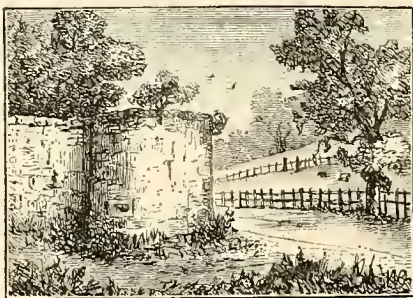
The “Roundle” (as it is called) at the foot of which the king sat down—the word is a term of military engineering, meaning a bastion of circular form—still exists; although, unfortunately, it and the adjoining road were somewhat encroached upon when the North British Railway was constructed in 1845.

XXV. ROBERT, SECOND EARL OF WINTON. He was born in 1583, and married Ann Maitland, only daughter of John, Lord Thirlstane, Chancellor of Scotland, but by whom

he had no issue. In this disappointment he resigned his titles and estates to his younger brother George, and died, in a private station of life, in January, 1634.

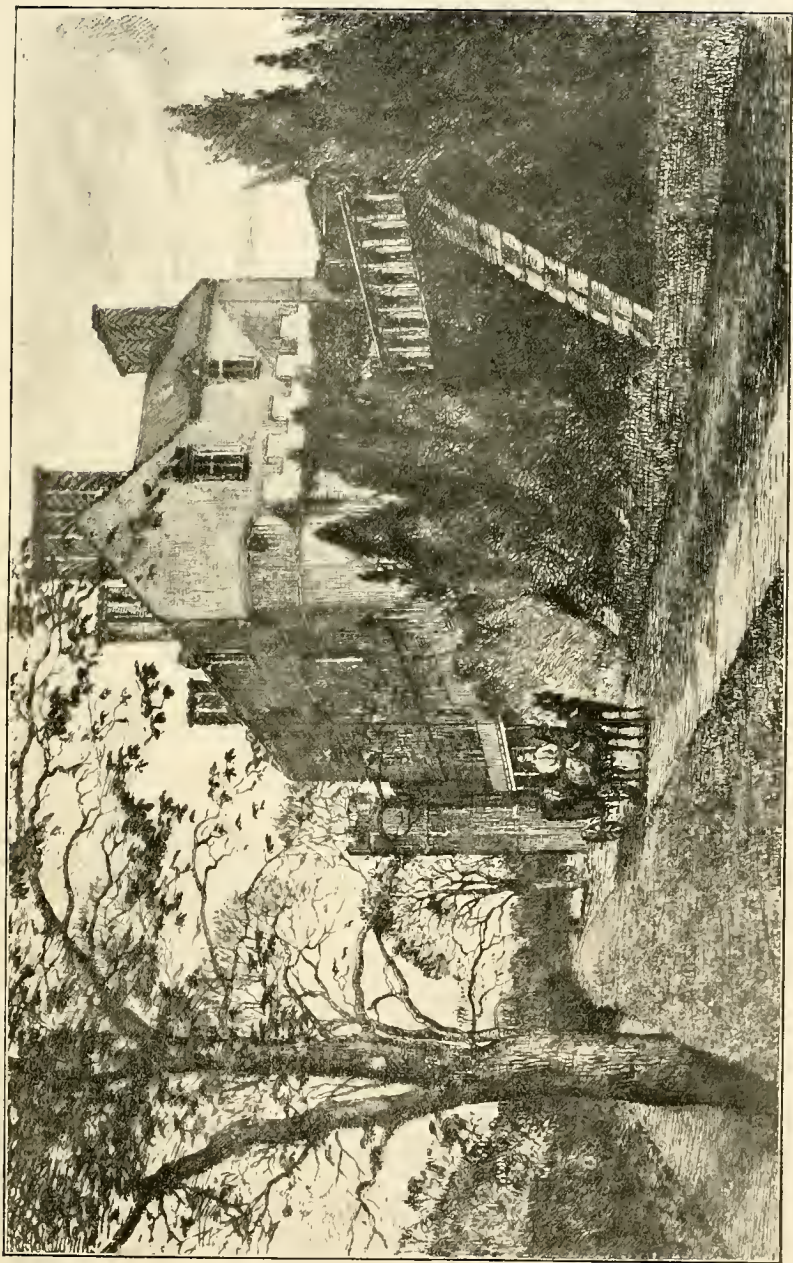
XXVI. GEORGE, THIRD EARL OF WINTON. In 1620 he built the house of Winton from the foundation, which had been burned by the English of old, and restored the park, orchard, and gardens around it. It is supposed by some to have been designed and built by Wallace, who was appointed

King's Master-Mason for Scotland in 1617; but others ascribe it to the celebrated Inigo Jones. This "peculiar and beautiful structure," as Burton calls it, is but a few miles from Seton, and situated on a steep embankment sloping down to the valley of



THE ROUNDE AT SETON.

the Tyne. Hunnewell (*Lands of Scott*) says that this "Jacobinian mansion" was the original of Ravenwood in the *Bride of Lammermoor*. There is, of course, a Ghost-room in the upper part of the house; but I saw nothing uncanny about it, twice that I was there. Another room, called the "King's Chamber," was occupied by Charles I. when he came to Scotland to be crowned in 1633. In 1630 Lord Winton built two quarters of the house of Seton, beginning at Wallace's tower, which was all burned by the English, and continued the building as far as Jacob's tower. Because the house had been burned three times by the English during the wars, and better times (as he thought) were now at hand, he caused to be carved on a fine stone tablet "upon the frontispiece of his new building" a crown supported by a thistle between two roses, being the cognizance of the two



WINTON HOUSE, HADDINGTONSHIRE.

kingdoms : the emblem enigmatically signifying the Union of Scotland and England. Under it he caused to be inscribed in deep letters of gold this Latin verse :

“ Unio Nunc Fatis Stoque Cadoque Tuis.”

Mylne makes a note upon this, saying: “ Ye Union was ye cause of the familie’s ruin, 1716.”

In 1639, at the commencement of the Scottish rebellion, Lord Winton left the country and waited upon the king to offer his loyal services, for which the rebels did him great injury; and thereafter all through the Civil War he was constantly harassed. In 1645, when Montrose was in command of the royal forces, the earl’s oldest son, Lord Seton, joined him, and was taken prisoner at the disastrous battle of Philiphaugh, and remained long “ in hazard of his life.” When King Charles II. came to Scotland in 1650, the Earl of Winton was in continuous attendance on him, and died on the 17th of December of the same year, while preparing to be present at the coronation. Like his father, he suffered a long series of petty persecutions from the Presbytery of Haddington on account of his attachment to the Catholic faith. For instance, “ Nov. 4, 1648, Presbytery ordained to purge the house of Setoun of popish servants, and to proceed both against them and against the Earl of Wintoun if he protect or resset them after admonition.”

Lord Winton was twice married. By his first wife, Lady Ann Hay, eldest daughter of the Earl of Erroll, he had five sons and three daughters, of whom only three will find place here, as the rest died young or unmarried. The family of Hay is among the most ancient and illustrious in North Britain. The long-accepted romantic and peasant origin given by Hector Boece, good soul, is disproved by modern criticism,*

* Before the eighteenth century the origin—in the popular mind at least—of very old families was always fabulous and fanciful. Even the early

and the Hays are placed where they belong, among those Norman adventurers of noble lineage who were invited to settle in Scotland in the twelfth century. Sir Gilbert Hay, or de la Haye, was a trusty companion of Bruce, by whom he was made High Constable of Scotland in 1315. The office, noblest of all the hereditary dignities of the kingdom, continues in the family, one of whom was created Earl of Erroll in 1453. The Marquess of Tweeddale, the Earl of Kinnoul, Hay of Smithfield, Bart. (*cr.* 1635), Hay of Park, Bart. (*cr.* 1663), and Hay of Dunse Castle are flourishing Cadets of this distinguished name.

The children of Lord Winton and Lady Ann Hay were :

1. George, Lord Seton, of whom hereafter.
2. Alexander.

3. Elizabeth, who married in 1637 William, seventh Earl Marischal, by whom she had four daughters, who were all well married. She brought a large fortune to her husband, and died in 1650.

By his second wife, Elizabeth Maxwell, only daughter of the seventh Lord Herries, Lord Winton had six sons and six daughters, of whom only the following are mentioned, the

history of the Colonnas and Orsinis, Joint Hereditary Assistant-Princes to the Pontifical Throne, who claim to stand at the head of European aristocracy, is a tissue of what Muratori calls *favole sopra favole*; and with special reference to which—although the words may be applied to other families who still retain ridiculous pretensions—the historian of the *Decline and Fall* says : “ Some nobles, who glory in their domestic fables, may be offended with his firm and temperate criticism ; yet surely some ounces of pure gold are of more value than many pounds of base metal ” (VIII., 220). What Muratori did for the governing families of Italy, that “ the learned and indefatigable ” Chalmers did for the historic families of Scotland. Naturally the Setons did not escape this prevailing mania of legendary extraction, and it was, at one time, seriously proposed to derive them from the *Sitones* described by Tacitus (*De Moribus Germ.*, XLV.). If I had lived and written when Lord Kingston did, in 1687, I would have gone still further back and started from Sethon, who is mentioned by Herodotus, and who reigned over Lower Egypt *circa* B.C. 716.

others dying either young or unmarried, or without succession.

1. Christopher.

2. William.

“Two hopeful young gentlemen.”*

Christopher was a great scholar. The brothers and a preceptor, while going “on their travels abroad, were cast away at sea, upon the coasts of Holland in anno 1648.”

3. John.

4. Robert, of whom hereafter among the Cadets.

5. Ann, married at Winton in April, 1654, to John Stuart, second Earl of Traquair, by whom she had three sons and one daughter, Elizabeth, who died, “a brave hopeful young lady,” at twenty years of age. “It is said that when Lord Traquair married Lady Anne Seton, the Covenanters made him stand at the kirk door of Dalkeith in the sack gown, for marrying a papist; nevertheless, he died of that religion himself, anno 1666.”†

After the earl’s conversion through his wife’s influence, this noble branch of the Stuarts remained consistently Catholic; and although the title became extinct by the death of the last earl in 1861, Traquair House, the oldest inhabited mansion in Scotland, descended by will at the death of his sister, Lady Louisa Stuart, in 1875, to her distant kinsman the Hon. Henry Constable-Maxwell, an English Catholic.

6. Mary, married to James Dalzell, fourth Earl of Carnwath, by whom she had a daughter, also named Mary, who married Lord John Hay, second son of the Marquess of Tweeddale, a brigadier-general under the Duke of Marlborough.

XXVII. GEORGE, LORD SETON. He was born 15th May, 1613, and married, in 1639, Lady Henrietta Gordon, daughter of the Marquess of Huntly, by whom he had four

* Kingston: *Continuation*.

† *Border Antiquities*.

sons, of whom George succeeded his grandfather as fourth Earl of Winton, and the others died young or without issue. Lord Seton suffered great hardships at the hands of the rebels during the Civil War, and died prematurely at Seton on 4th June, 1648. His coat-of-arms appears in the beautiful large memorial window to the Great Marquess of Montrose, in Saint Giles' Church, Edinburgh, as one of the companions of that illustrious commander.

XXVIII. GEORGE, FOURTH EARL OF WINTON. He was on the Continent for his studies, a boy of under ten years of age, when he succeeded to the title and estates in 1650. Notwithstanding his youth, a heavy fine was imposed on him by Cromwell's Act of Grace and Pardon. His tutor and uncle was Lord Kingston, by whom he was brought up "in the true Protestant religion," thus severing the long attachment of his family to the Catholic Church. "June 19th, 1656, Lord Kingston reported to the Presbytery by order of the Synod that Lord Winton had hitherto been educated in the Protestant Religion and his education should still be carefully attended to."*

Lord Winton was accomplished in the knowledge of arms, and gave proof of his skill and gallantry at the siege of Besançon, in France, in 1660. Returning to England with a brilliant reputation, he was well received by Charles II. and sworn of the Privy Council, and given command of the East Lothian regiment of foot against the Covenanters in 1666; and in 1679 commanded the same regiment "upon his own charges, with all his vassals, in noble equipage, in his Majesty's army of 14,000 men," at Bothwell Bridge, where the rebels were totally defeated. After the battle he enter-

* Communicated by Rev. Dr. Struthers, Minister of Prestonpans, in 1861, and a "most accurate and intelligent antiquary." He took special interest in everything connected with the Seton family. I can never forget his kindness to myself.

tained the Duke of Monmouth and all the Scotch and English officers with magnificent hospitality at Seton. In May, 1682, he accompanied the Duke of York from London to Edinburgh in the "Gloucester" frigate, which was wrecked, with great loss of life, on Yarmouth Sands. An interesting letter written to Mr. Hewer from Edinburgh, Monday, May 8, 1682, on this disaster, at which he was present, is found in the correspondence of Samuel Pepys. In 1685 Lord Winton was appointed by King James II. to the high office of Grand Master of the Household; and in the same year Professor Sinclair presented him with a curious and rare work entitled *Satan's Invisible World Discovered; or A Choice Collection of Relations anent Devils, Spirits, Witches and Apparitions*. *

The lengthy "Epistle Dedicatory" is in a vein of exaggerated praise, somewhat relieved by a description of the earl's coal-mining operations, in which he brings in the name of Athanasius Kircher, the Jesuit, whom most people have heard of only through the Kircherian Museum in the Roman College, at Rome, but who was one of the first natural philosophers and scientists of the age. This earl did much to improve his property and incidentally to benefit the public. He built a new harbor at Cockenzie, called "Port Seton," which still exists by this name, and has recently revived and come into favor with Edinburgh people as a summer resort. It is now of sufficient importance to find a place on the indexed *Map of Scotland* published at Chicago by Rand, McNally & Co. † In 1691-93 he was journeying in Holland, and is found at Amsterdam and at Leyden, where he met travellers and learned men in whose company he delighted, as he was much given to mathematics and physical science.

Nisbet says of this nobleman that "he imitated the extraordinary loyalty of his ancestors; none of them having ever been guilty of treason or rebellion, nor addicted to avarice,

* Reprinted at Edinburgh in 1871.

† Cockenzie and Port Seton have now together a population of 1,578 inhabitants.

nor found with lands of the Church in their possession." He married Christian, daughter and heiress of John Hepburn of Adiston, "an ancient baron in East Lothian, who since King Robert Bruce were heritable standard bearers to the House of Seton." By her he had two sons: George, Lord Seton, of whom hereafter; and Christopher, who "was cut off by death, 5th. Jan., 1705, to the great regret of all that knew him." *

The Countess of Winton died in 1703, and the earl on the 6th of March, 1704.

XXIX. GEORGE, FIFTH AND LAST EARL OF WINTON. He was abroad on his travels when his parents died, and "no man knew where to find him, till accident led to the discovery." Macky's *Memoirs* say that he "was at Rome when his father died": and did not return to Scotland until several years after his succession to the earldom, much to the detriment of his house and estate, which were dilapidated by sundry kinsmen during this protracted and wilful absence. He seems, like all his family, to have been given to study and researches of some kind, and to travel; and in 1708 Robert Calder, a minister of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, dedicated to him his edition of the *Genuine Epistles of St. Ignatius*. He was one of the first Scottish noblemen who played an active part in the "Rising" of 1715, to restore the exiled family to the throne. "He took with him three hundred men to the standard of James Stuart; but he appears to have carried with him a fiery and determined temper,—the accompaniment, perhaps, of noble qualities, but a dangerous attribute in times of difficulty." †

The Scottish army, having advanced into England against Lord Winton's advice, capitulated at Preston, in Lancashire, after a fierce engagement on Monday, 14th November, 1715.

* Mylne in a note to Nisbet.

† Thomson: *Memoirs of the Jacobites*, II., 12.

Among the seventy-five "prisoners of quality" who surrendered there were, besides the head of the family, George Seton of Barnes, titular Earl of Dunfermline, and Sir George Seton of Garleton, Baronet. Winton was carried to London and lodged in the Tower. He was tried apart from the other noblemen, having pleaded "Not guilty"—the only one who had the courage and consistency to do so, as it would have been unworthy of a Seton to acknowledge himself (even constructively) a traitor and throw himself on the mercy of King George. The other Scotch lords were the Earl of Nithsdale, Earl of Carnwath, Viscount Kenmure, and Baron Nairn. The young Earl of Derwentwater, an English Catholic involved in the same catastrophe, having pleaded "guilty" at his trial (which, however, did not avail to save him), was induced by the priest who attended him on the scaffold, and hesitated about giving him absolution, to retract the plea. This he did. To plead "guilty" was looked upon by strict theologians as a repudiation of one's lawful sovereign—James III. Lord Winton defended himself with spirit and ability; but, of course, was condemned to death. It was the 19th of March, 1716. His sentence was such a foregone conclusion that he laughed in the face of the Lord High Steward, who presided—Sir William (afterward Earl) Cowper, telling him: "I hope you will do me justice, and not make use of Coupar-law, as we used to say in our country: 'Hang a man first and then try him.' " He was punning on the name of Cowper, which was pronounced *Cooper*, the same as *Cupar*, the Fifeshire town, which was also sometimes written *Cowper*. To understand this joke, one must know that the old cross of Macduff, in Fife, was a famous sanctuary and that those "claiming the privilege of the Law of Clan Macduff were required to appear afterwards before the judges assembled at Cowper in Fife"; but by a sort of anticipatory Lynch Law, the criminal or suspected criminal who had run

to the Cross did not always (after leaving sanctuary) live to reach Cupar and have a fair trial: he was hanged before he got there. Lord Winton's character was very original, and he was calumniated by enemies and misunderstood by friends, as though his plea and defence, so peculiar to himself, were signs of an unbalanced mind. Sir Walter Scott refutes these insinuations: "But, if we judge from his conduct in the rebellion, Lord Winton appears to have displayed more sense and prudence than most of those engaged in that unfortunate affair." * While lying in the Tower under sentence, a trusty servant managed to furnish him with a file or other small instrument (some say it was only a watch-spring), with which he contrived to cut through the window-bars of his cell and escaped. This was on Saturday, August 4, 1716, about 9 o'clock at night. The earl got safe to France, and ultimately made his way to Rome, where all misfortune finds a balm. He is *supposed* to have died there, unmarried, on the 19th of December, 1749, when over seventy years of age. The last time we hear of him, brings back to our minds with pathetic interest the love of these Scottish exiles for their native land and how they would foregather in poverty and distress, keeping up brave hearts, to talk over old times and sing the songs of other days: "Walked two hours with Lord Dunbar in the gardens, and afterwards went to the coffee-house to which Lord Winton resorted, and several others of his stamp, and there fell a-singing old Scots songs, and were very merry." †

It is not known where Lord Winton is buried, although several of his name and family have made search. I have heard two traditions which converge substantially to the same conclusion: one that he returned to Scotland in disguise, and died there unknown, except to very few; the other, that he

* *Tales of a Grandfather*, Ch. LXVIII.

† From article in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for June, 1853, entitled "A Visit to Rome in 1736," by Alexander Cunyngham, M.D.



George 5th Earl of Winton
ANNO 1749.

Winton

died in the *Catholic* faith, in obscurity, at Ormiston. I notice this, only because some writers have said emphatically that he died a *Protestant*, as if they knew anything about it. The original of the illustration I give is in the possession of Sir Alan Henry Seton-Steuart, Bart. It has a stern and resolute expression, indicative of an uncompromising character, which he was. "Thus terminated," says Sir Robert Douglas, "one of the principal houses in Great Britain, after subsisting for upwards of 600 years in East Lothian, and from thence spreading into several flourishing branches in Scotland." *

There have been claimants to the Winton peerage, but they have not succeeded. In 1825 a young man named George Seton appeared at Edinburgh and called for the honors—the estates had been confiscated, sold, and dispersed; and although he probably was the grandson of the fifth Earl of Winton, the want of a certificate of marriage between his grandfather and Margaret McKlear, daughter of a Scotch physician, settled his claim adversely. There is still, however, in this matter, subject for another chapter to Burke's *Romance of the Peerage*. Her gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, was pleased to reverse the attainder of the Scotch insurgent lords; and in 1859 Archibald-William Montgomerie, thirteenth Earl of Eglinton, was created Earl of Winton in the peerage of the United Kingdom. The late Sir John Hope, Bart., one afternoon while we were driving down from Pinkie House to Seton, related that Eglinton told him of his having been offered a marquessate on resigning the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland, but that he preferred the Winton honors; and yet that he did not care so much for the title of Earl of Winton, but that he *did* want to be Lord Seton, and was mortified at the opposition to his coveted claim of this ancient barony. In fact, there is a strong opinion,

* *Peerage*, II., 648.

shared even by some distinguished genealogists, that his Winton honors must be looked upon as a new creation, and “a very improper one” under the circumstances. The late Sir William Fraser, a peerage lawyer—author of *Memorials of the Montgomeries*—tried to impress upon me that *every* existing collateral branch of the Seton family had been sought out, studied, and excluded from the succession by a process of elimination which, with the certainty of a problem in algebra, left the Eglintons the only possible heirs. Others are not quite so certain; especially as Seton, at least, was probably a female barony, *i.e.*, descendible to females to the exclusion of male heirs related in a remoter degree.

The late Mr. Riddell, whom my father knew at Edinburgh over forty years ago, says in his *Peerage Law*, I., 49, that “the House of Seton or Winton, on account of its great connections and ramifications, besides the antiquity of its descent, would seem now to be the noblest in Scotland. They were a fine specimen in many respects of a high baronial family, from the magnificence and state they maintained at their ‘Palace of Seton’—expressly so called in royal grants under the sign-manual, and identified with the memory of Queen Mary—their consistency, loyalty, and superior advancement to their countrymen in the arts and civilized habits of society.”

The name of Seton has disappeared from the Peerage, but so have other even greater ones. Yet the name of SETON can never be forgotten so long as the history of Scotland will be read and so long as the story of the Stuarts shall fascinate the minds of men.

CHAPTER VI.

SETON, EARL OF DUNFERMLINE, 1555-1694.

I. ALEXANDER, FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE. Alexander Seton was the third surviving son of George, seventh Lord Seton, and Isabel Hamilton, his wife. In the group portrait by More, he is the youth looking up at his father, with the initials A. S. and the number 14 above his head. These mean "Alexander Seton, aged fourteen years." He was born in 1555. His Christian name was chosen by Queen Mary herself, who was his god-mother, and gave him lands in Moray for his support. For this reason and for his blood relationship to the Stuarts, he is called by an Italian author "a near relative of the Queen of Scots," where he says, of the confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament originally established in the Church of Sant' Andrea delle Fratte:

Dipoi si dono ritirati per maggior commodità in una casa ; ove era lo spedale delli Scozzesi ; ed ivi cantano li loro offitii, e fanno le congregazioni necessarie. Questo luogo overo Spedale gli é stato concesso dall' Illustriss. Signor Alisandro Sitionio, Scotto, parente stretto della Regina di Scotia.—FANUCI: *Opere Pie di Roma*, ch. 39, p. 299, Rome, 1601.

He went to Rome for his studies, intending to take Orders, but he certainly never did so. His early life there is summed up in a few lines by Lord Kingston:

"He was sent by his father when he was young to Rome, finding him of a great spirit, intending att that time to make him a churchman. Att Rome, he was bred young in the Roman colledge of the Jesuites, wher he excelled in learning. He declained, not being 16 years of age, ane learned oration of his own composing, *De Ascensione Domini*, on that festivall day, publicly before the Pope, Gregory the 13th, the cardinall, and other prelatz present,

in the pope's chapel in the Vatican, with great applause. He was in great esteem at Rome for his learning, being a great humanist in prose and poecie, Greek and Latine ; well versed in the mathematicks, and had great skill in architecture and heraldrie. I was told att Rome, if he had stayed ther, it was not doubted but he had been Cardinall."

While at Rome he obtained from Queen Mary the Priory of Pluscardin, of which his father had been *Æconomus* and Commissioner since the 17th of April, 1561. "The grant was declared to be as effectual as if he had been provided to the bene-



SIGNATURE OF LORD CHANCELLOR SETON.

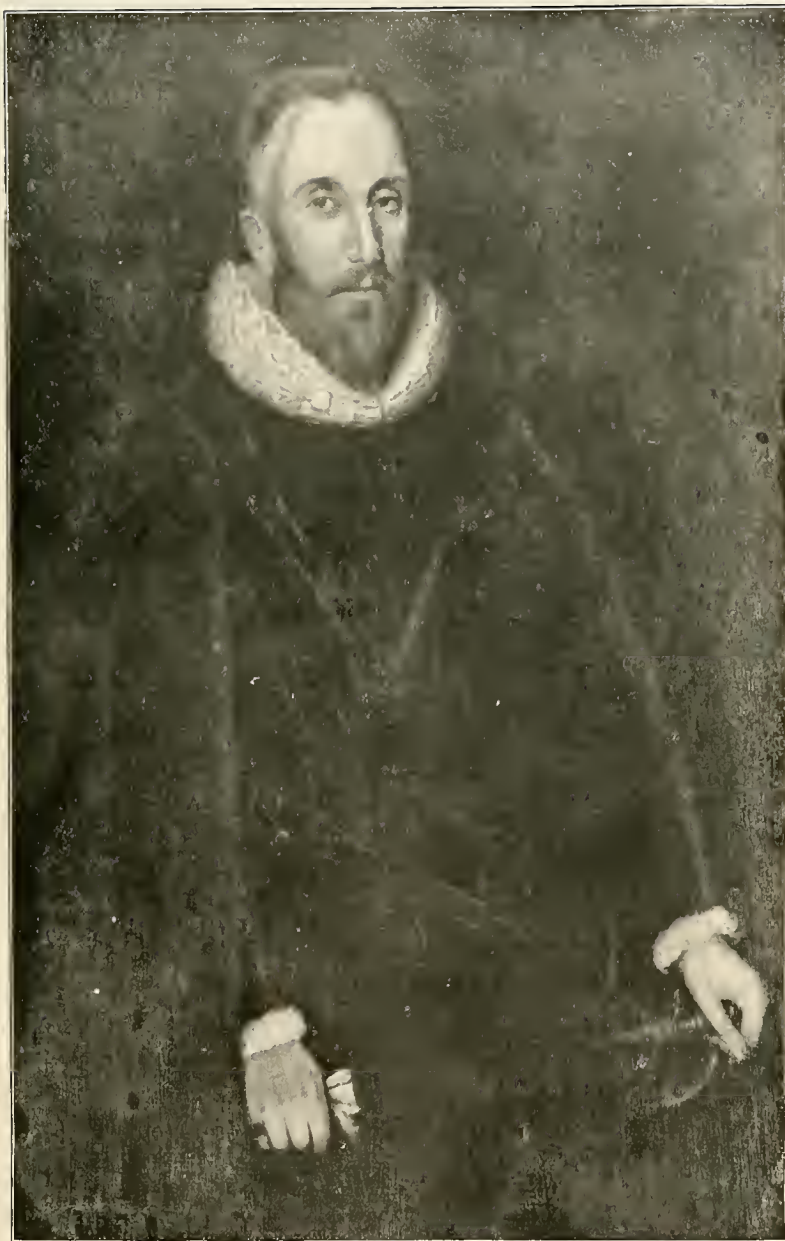
[*Alexander Cancellarius.*]

(1606.)

fice at the Court of Rome, according to the order observit in tymes past."* In some charters he is styled *Commendatarius perpetuus monasterii de Pluscardin*. There are difficulties in recon-

ciling his holding of this Church property with his favor at Rome, his substantial adherence to the Catholic faith, and the manner he is spoken of by contemporary Catholic writers who understood all the circumstances of such a case after the change of religion and the subversion of the Church in Scotland. It is not, however, evidence, but mere denunciation on the part of the Anglican editors of the new edition of Sir Henry Spelman's *Fate of Sacrilege*, which includes him in that awful crime. Pluscardin followed the Cistercian rule. It has recently been purchased from the Duke of Fife by Lord Bute, under whose generous and Catholic impulse it will again, I have understood, become a living monastic institution. Owing to the civil and religious disturbances in Scotland, young Seton abandoned his intention of taking Orders and went to France, where his father was Ambassador, to study law. On returning to Scotland a few years later he

* Hailes : *Senators of the Col. of Just.*, p. 198.



ALEXANDER SETON, FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE.

[Act. 55.]

(Original by Zuccaro, at Yester.)

was taken into favor by King James, who in 1585 made him an Extraordinary Lord of Session, and in 1587 raised him to the peerage by the title of Lord Urquhart. He became President of the College of Justice in 1593, and on the 9th of January, 1596, was appointed one of the Octavians, or Commissioners of Exchequer, and their presiding officer.* For ten successive years he was Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and kept wonderfully good order in the town. On March 4, 1598, he was created Baron Fyvie, and soon afterward intrusted with the education of the king's second son, who lived to become Charles I. In October, 1604, Lord Fyvie and the other Scotch Commissioners went to London to confer upon the union of the two kingdoms, then projected, and a favorite measure of King James.

In 1605 Lord Fyvie was made Earl Dunfermline and Lord Chancellor of Scotland, being the last Catholic to hold that high office. It is known how cordially the Scotch were disliked in England. Sir Henry Yelverton, M.P., having spoken disrespectfully of the Scottish nation and of its Chancellor, who is described as "a Seton, a man of magnificent tastes, and most dignified and astute character," was obliged to go down on his knees and ask pardon.† In 1611 the Earl was made "Keeper of Holyrood House during life." This gave him the right to an apartment in the royal palace. The keepership is now hereditary in the family of the Duke of Hamilton. The same year of his advancement to the rank of Earl and to the office of Chancellor, Father James Seton, S.J., wrote, September 30, 1605, to Father Claudius Aquaviva, General of the Society of Jesus, as follows:

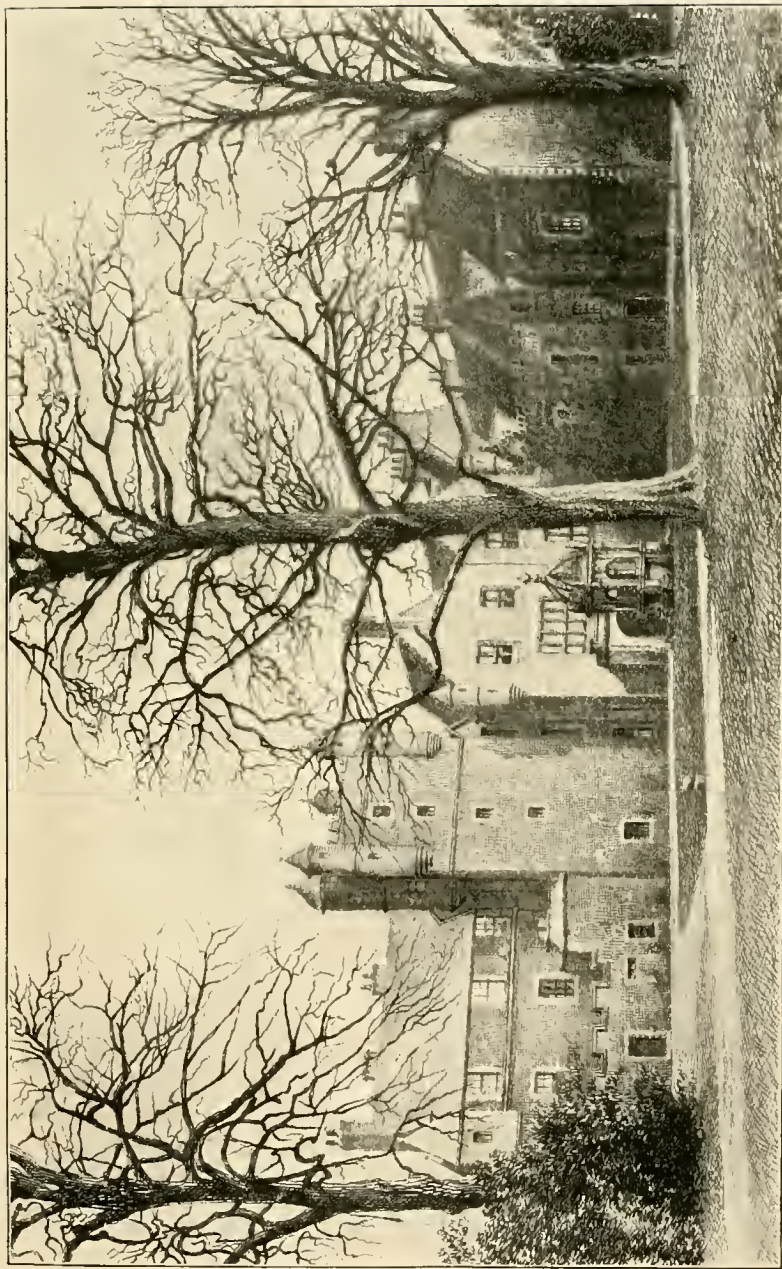
* This body was a finance committee of eight upright and learned men, who from their number were called "The King's Octavians."—BURTON: *History of Scotland*, V., 299.

† Chambers: *Book of Days*, I., 88.

“Fr. James Seton to Fr. C. Aquaviva, General of the Society of Jesus.

“Very Rev. Father in Christ,—The persecution in Scotland does not cease or lessen since the departure of the King. The government is entirely in the hands of the Lord Alexander Seton, whom the King has made Earl of Dunfermline, and who is favorably known to your Paternity. He is, or should be, abbot of that place, where there was once a famous monastery. He was formerly President of the Council, and is now Chancellor of the Kingdom. The Viceroy is the Earl of Montrose, the President of the Council the Lord James Elphinston, brother of Father George; but they are all directed by Lord Alexander Seton. He is a Catholic, as is also the Lord President and the Royal Advocate. In political wisdom, in learning, in high birth, wealth, and authority, he possesses far more influence than the rest, and his power is universally acknowledged.”

The Earl of Dunfermline was distinguished for his architectural skill, his love of heraldic decorations, inscriptions, and works of art. His wealth enabled him to gratify these patrician tastes. Some fragments of his poetry are still extant, particularly two elegant Latin epigrams prefixed to his friend Bishop Lesley's *History of Scotland*, and another addressed to Sir John Skene on the publication of his *Regiam Majestatem*. He also wrote a sonnet on the chivalrous Sir Philip Sidney, which is printed in a little volume published at London in 1587. His literary taste was acknowledged by everyone, and his approbation was sought by many. Tytler, in his *Life of Sir Thomas Craig*, calls the Chancellor “a patron of men of letters”; and in 1617 a Scotch worthy, the famous John Napier of Merchistoun, inventor of logarithms, dedicated to him his latest work in flattering terms. Lord Dunfermline died at Pinkie on June 16, 1622, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, “with the regret of all who knew him, and the love of his country,” says Lord Kingston. He was buried with much solemnity at Dalgety, where he possessed a country seat, which he had repaired and beautified with gardens running down to the water's edge. The picturesque old church and adjoining habitation are now only an ivy-clad ruin. It was dedicated to Saint Brigid. Father



PINKIE HOUSE, MID-LOTHIAN.
Favorite residence of the Lord Chancellor.

Forbes-Leith, S. J., in his *Narratives of Scottish Catholics*, thus translates the summing up and opinion of Conn, *De Duplici Statu Religionis apud Scotos*, about this greatest man who has ever borne our ancient and widely extended name :

“ Alexander Seton, fourth son of George Lord Seton, and Isabel Hamilton, had resided long at Rome, where he was much esteemed for his virtue and piety, and on his return to Scotland he was held in high honour, no less on account of his illustrious origin than for his prudence. He was much loved by the King, from whom he received valuable grants of land. After having been appointed President of the High Court of Justice, he subsequently became Chancellor of Scotland, in which high office he acquired such a wide-spread reputation for justice and integrity that, on the occasion of his funeral, all classes vied with one another in exhibiting every mark of respect and sorrow for the loss the nation had sustained. Four years before his death, in presence of a numerous assembly of Catholics, attended by the ringleaders of the Puritan faction and many other Protestants after affirming that he had never ceased to hold the doctrine of the orthodox Church, he declared that nothing gave him greater pain than to recollect how he had shown himself lukewarm and remiss in his profession of faith, in order to ingratiate himself with his Sovereign. When he had thus spoken with tears in his eyes, he called the assembly to witness that he would die in the profession of the Roman Catholic faith.”

In 1662 a poem was printed by the heirs of one Andrew Hart, entitled “ Tears for the Death of Alexander, Earle of Dunfermline, Lord Chancellor of Scotland.” It has been edited by James Maidment, Esq., and reprinted for the Bannatyne Club. Mr. George Seton published in 1882 an illustrated *Memoir* of this nobleman, and tells us (p. 183) that Dempster refers to a life of the Chancellor, in Latin, by William Seton, his kinsman, which the author intended to publish. Mr. Seton also speaks of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary mentioned in the inventory of his effects. If this could be traced and found, it would be of greater value, in some eyes, than “ the large number of valuable jewels (including upwards of five hundred diamonds) and a liberal supply of goldsmith’s work and silver plate ” which he possessed.

Lord Dunfermline was thrice married.

By his first wife, Lillas, daughter of Patrick, Lord Drummond, whom he wedded about 1592, he had only daughters, of whom Isabel married the first Earl of Lauderdale, son of Chancellor Maitland, Lord Thirlstane; and Sophia married the first Lord Lindsay of Balcarres, ancestor of the Earl of Crawford.

By his second wife, a Leslie of Rothies, whom he married in 1601, he had a daughter Jean or Jane, who married the eighth Lord Yester and first Earl of Tweeddale. Lady Yester was remarkably handsome. Her picture is preserved at Yester House, Haddingtonshire, the seat of the Marquess of Tweeddale, where also are other Seton portraits.

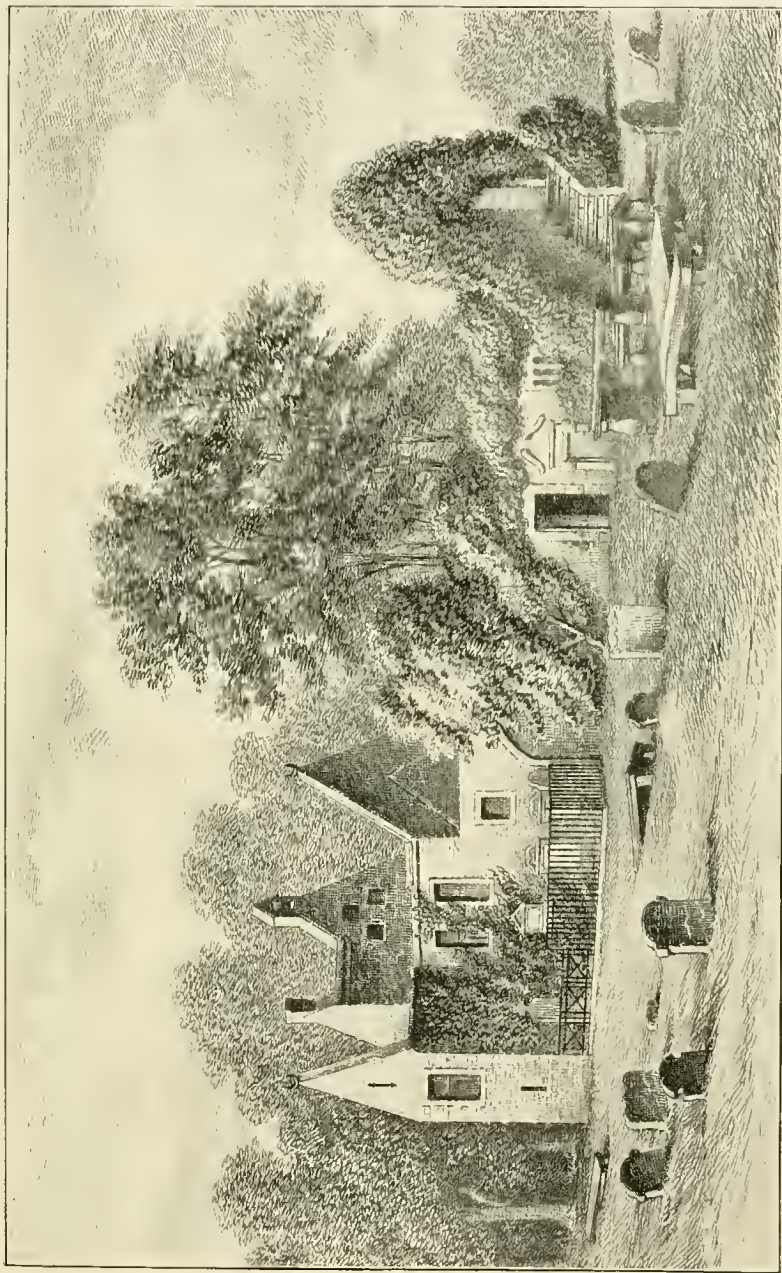
By his third wife, Hon. Margaret Hay, he had a son Charles, who succeeded him.

II. CHARLES, SECOND EARL OF DUNFERMLINE. He was born in 1608, and took an active part in public affairs during the reigns of Charles I. and II. By the former he was appointed a Privy Councillor and by the latter Lord Privy Seal; yet by some lamentable perversity, contrary to all the traditions of his family, he became a zealous adherent of the Covenant, and was high in the confidence of his party.

Like some other chief men of their faction, he became disgusted with much that the Covenanters did, and gradually came around to the side of the Royalists, to which he naturally belonged. After the execution of the king he went to Holland and waited on Charles II., with whom he returned to Scotland in 1650.

Lord Dunfermline married Lady Mary Douglas (who died at Fyvie in 1659), daughter of the seventh Earl of Morton, by whom he had a daughter and three sons:

1. Henrietta, married, first, at Dalgety, in September, 1670, William Fleming, sixth Earl of Wigton, a title which expired with her son, the seventh earl, who died unmarried



RUINS OF DALGETY LODGE AND CHURCH.
Burial-place of the Dunfermline Setons.

in 1747; and, secondly, to the sixteenth Earl of Crawford.

2. Charles, Lord Fyvie, born in 1640, who was killed in a sea-fight with the Dutch in 1672.

3. Alexander, third earl.

4. James, fourth earl.

Lord Dunfermline died at Seton in January, 1673, and was nobly interred at his burial-place in Dalgety.

III. ALEXANDER, THIRD EARL OF DUNFERMLINE. Born in 1642, he succeeded his father, and died at Edinburgh at the early age of thirty-three. Was buried at Dalgety. Dying unmarried, he was succeeded by his brother.

IV. JAMES, FOURTH AND LAST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE. He was born in 1644, and being a younger son went abroad and took service for some years as an officer of a Scotch regiment serving "under the States of Holland, where he behaved himself gallantly," says Lord Kingston in his *Continuation*, p. 67. Some time afterward he returned to Scotland, and in 1682 married Lady Jane Gordon, daughter to Lewis, third Marquess of Huntly.

At the Revolution he took the part of King James, with the accustomed loyalty and devotion of the Setons, and commanded a troop of horse at the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689. It was a victory, but bought at a great price, for the commander of the royal army was killed.* "When last seen in the battle, Dundee, accompanied only by the Earl of Dunfermline and about sixteen gentlemen, was entering into the cloud of smoke, standing up in his stirrups, and waving to the others to come on. It was in this attitude that he appears to have received his death wound."†

Outlawed and forfeited by Parliament in 1690, the earl went to France and joined the king at Saint Germain, where

* The celebrated John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount of Dundee.

† Aytoun: *Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers*, p. 81.

he was invested with the Order of the Thistle. He died there without issue, on the 26th of December, 1694, and with him ended the line and peerage of Dunfermline. Macaulay singles him out as a peculiarly atrocious example of King James's bigotry and ingratitude in his exile, but the affair is deeply colored by the historian for the sake of Whiggery and fine writing.

CHAPTER VII.

SETON, VISCOUNT KINGSTON, 1621-1726.

I. ALEXANDER SETON, second son of the third Earl of Winton, was born in 1621. He was a precocious youth, and when King Charles I. visited Seton in 1633, welcomed his Majesty in a Latin oration. He acquitted himself so well that when he had finished the king knighted him. Being only twelve years old, the king thought proper to admonish him, saying: "Now, Sir Alexander, see this does not spoil your studies; by appearance you will be a scholar." Then spoke he: "No, please your Majesty, it shall not." In 1636 Sir Alexander was sent to France, and immediately went to the college of La Flèche, conducted by the Jesuits, where he studied philosophy two years.

He defended his thesis publicly in the said colledge from 10 to halfe 12 in the forenoon and two till half four in the afternoon, he and another fyne gentleman of quality, having a throne layed with carpets, erected for them, in the school, with a cover of crimson taffity above their heads and courtanes drawn about them. Which thesiss were printed in whyte satine, with the full armes of the House of Seton, with one oration dedicatory, on the head of them; he sent them home to my Lord, his father, being dedicat to him. —KINGSTON: *Continuation*, p. 81.

After this he went to Italy, where he lived a year; then sailed from Leghorn in an English vessel, which brought him to Alicante, in Spain, whence he went to the Court at Madrid and remained there seven months. From Spain he embarked at San Sebastian, and in seven days reached Rochelle; then travelled all that summer through great part of France. Com-

ing to England in 1640, he went at once to Court, where he was cordially received by King Charles I., who sent him to Scotland with important despatches, and instructed Sir Henry Vane to give him every facility for his journey, with an order on the Governor of Berwick to press a ship or barque for him for Scotland if so he desired.

To escape the importunities of the Covenanters he retired to Holland in 1643, where he resided eight months, but on returning to Scotland was excommunicated by the Kirk Assembly, in Tranent Church, in October of the same year, "by the mouth of Mr. Robert Ballcanquail, minister thereof." After this, Sir Alexander had to go to France by sea in the winter time, being twice in imminent danger of shipwreck, not daring to go through England because the Scotch rebellious army was in the country. He attended upon the Prince of Wales (afterward Charles II.) until 1647, when he went to London, where he was frequently with the king at Hampton Court. When the king had escaped, incognito, to the Isle of Wight, Sir Alexander was the first of his loyal subjects who waited upon him there; and being told to return to France with a verbal message for the queen, he brought with him "three gallant horses, resolving to present them to the Prince of Wales." By good fortune there was lying in the Thames "a Scots vessel, the master being of his acquaintance, bound for France." On this he took passage, and to facilitate his voyage the king gave him a special safe conduct, written in French, in which he particularly requested the Dunkirkers not to molest him. In three days he was at St. Germain, where he stayed two days, and after receiving the letters of the queen and prince, "delivered them to the King in the isle of Wight, the 12th day thereafter, being the 20th day of December, the said year." He then went into Scotland, and was made Lieutenant-Colonel of Horse in the unfortunate army levied there for the king's relief. In 1651,

a few days after Charles II.'s coronation at Scone, he was pleased to grant to Sir Alexander, for his loyalty, painstaking, and services "done to his Majesties' father, of blessed memory, and himself, a patent with the title of honour of Viscount, being the first title of honour he gave to any after his coronation, not having made a knight before that time." Sir Alexander was then in command of Tantallon Castle, which Oliver Cromwell was besieging. When a large breach had been made by the guns, and the wall fallen into the dry ditch, the place was doomed; but the gallant captain—Sir Alexander—retreated fighting, until he got his men in the tower, and then surrendered only on promise of quarter. He afterward joined the royal army and fought at Worcester, where it was totally defeated on the 3d of September following.

During the subsequent troubles in Scotland, he had a regiment, and fought against the rebels at Pentland Hills and at Bothwell Brig. He commanded the East Lothian levies for fourteen years. Kingston was a typical cavalier, and although he saved his head under the Commonwealth, he "died poor, having spent both his own estate and his lady's," says Sir George Mackenzie in a manuscript *Account of Scottish Families* in the British Museum. He is the author of the *Continuation* to Maitland's *History of the House of Seton*.

Lord Kingston married, first, Jane, daughter of Sir George Fletcher, Kt.,* by whom he had one daughter, who married James, third Lord Mordington, a title created in 1641 for Sir James Douglas, second son of William, tenth Earl of Angus, and which expired with the death of Mary, Baroness Mordington in her own right, on 22d July, 1791.

* The family of Fletcher, now of Salton Hall, East Lothian (an estate acquired in 1643), rose to distinction in the person of Sir Andrew Fletcher of Innerpeffer and Beucleo, in the County of Forfar, who was an eminent lawyer, and one of the Senators of the College of Justice in 1623. His descendants have maintained a high place among the landed gentry of Scotland.

He married, secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Archibald Douglas of Whittinghame, in the County of Haddington, of whom she became eventually the heiress. They had nine children: Charles, George, Alexander, Archibald, John, James, Isabel, Barbara, and Elizabeth. Of these, Charles, Master of Kingston, died unmarried in the lifetime of his father. George also died a young man, while serving as captain in Douglas's Regiment in the French service. Archibald lived to be second, and James third Viscount. Elizabeth married the Hon. William Hay of Drumelzier, which eventually brought Whittinghame Tower to that family. It is now owned by the brilliant statesman, Rt. Hon. Arthur James Balfour, M.P.

Alexander was "a distinguished scholar, who died young." The others also died young.

II. ARCHIBALD, SECOND VISCOUNT KINGSTON. Died unmarried in 1714.

III. JAMES, THIRD AND LAST VISCOUNT KINGSTON. He began life as an ensign in the regiment of Scottish Fusiliers about 1687. Three years afterward, 16th of August, 1690, he and a kinsman were accused of stopping the post-boy between Cockburnspath and Haddington, and robbing the mail for political reasons, as being Setons they were also Jacobites of course. Dr. Chambers, in his *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, gives a long account of the affair, which took a very curious turn, and the young men finally escaped conviction. For his part in the "Rising" of 1715 Lord Kingston was attainted by act of Parliament, and his estates and honors forfeited to the Crown. He married Lady Anne Lindsay, daughter of the third Earl of Balcarres, but had no issue. He fled to the Continent and died there in 1726, and with him terminated this branch of the Setons.

The heirs of line of the Kingston family are the Hays of Dunse Castle. Margaret Hay, granddaughter of Hon. Eliza-

beth Seton and the Hon. William Hay of Drumelzier, married Sir Henry Seton of Culbeg, Bart., who served with the British troops in America in the middle of the last century.

These Hays have in their possession many Seton papers, portraits, and heirlooms. It may be interesting also to remember that their ancient town and castle has given a name to the *Doctor Subtilis*—the subtle doctor—John Duns Scotus, who was born there, and died in Cologne in 1308. These Hays are cousins of the Setons of Abercorn.

CHAPTER VIII.

SETON OF GARLETON, BART., 1639-1769.

I. THE HON. SIR JOHN SETON, a younger son of the third Earl of Winton, was born on 29th September, 1639, and was created a baronet on 9th of December, 1664. He got in patrimony the lands of Garleton * and Athelstaneford, in Haddingtonshire. He married Christian, daughter of Sir John Home of Renton,† and had ten children. George succeeded his father; Robert, of whom hereafter; Margaret, entered a nunnery at Paris, and died there. Sir John was a virtuous man, and strongly attached to the ancient faith. He died in 1686, and was buried in Athelstaneford church.

There is a portrait of him at Dunse Castle.

In 1889 Mr. Brown, librarian of the Society of Antiquaries, at Edinburgh, kindly showed me a curious and very rare little book, entitled *An Answer to Monsieur De Rodon's Funeral of*

* The picturesque ruins of the old tower and castle are on the Garleton Hills, some two miles from Haddington. The place was formerly called Garmylton and Gairmiltoun, whence by corruption Garleton.

† Sir John Home of Renton, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, was created a baronet in 1698. This baronetcy is now extinct (or dormant?). He married Margaret, daughter of John Stewart, Commendator of Coldingham and son of Francis, Earl of Bothwell. The tower of Renton (Berwickshire) figured a good deal in the wars of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; but only the foundations of it can now be traced. Home is an old, celebrated, and historical family of Scotland. The founder was descended from the Earls of Dunbar and March, who themselves were sprung from the Saxon princes of Northumberland. The head of the family is the Earl of Home. The name is pronounced—for no satisfactory reason—as if written *Hume*.

*the Mass, by N. N., at Douay, in France, 1681.** It is a small 8vo, of 137 pages, and is dedicated to the first Garleton baronet. The author is unknown, but I would suppose him to be a Jesuit, from the emblem of the Society engraved on the title-page. In Oliver's *Collections* the author is surmised to be Father William Aloysius Lesley.

The Epistle Dedicatory is as follows:

To the Honourable, Sir JOHN SETON OF GARLETON, son to Lord *George, Late Earl of Winton*.

Sir,—The great Obligations, I had to your Honour afore I parted from Scotland, claim with much reason to some Fruit of my labour. Be pleased then to accept of a little work of mine from Flanders.

I am confident the subject will please you, because it is suitable to your Devotion and to the piety of your most Noble and ancient Family.

Our Saviour by the occasion of the Jews seeking him for Bread, spoke to them of the Bread of Life, and I, by the occasion of three sheafs of Corn, I find in your Scutchion, or in the Honours of your House, will speak to you, in reference to the Subject of this little Book, of the Bread, termed by the Church, *the Bread of the Strong*, I mean of the most Holy Sacrifice, and Sacrament of the Altar.

Ligor ne dispergar sayes your motto, *I am bound lest I scatter*, your glorious ancestors being united and tyed together in the Faith of this Sacrament, were not scattered by the Enemies of their Souveraign, when helped by the miraculous valour in a Child of the house of *Duglas*, they gallantly brought Queen *Mary* out of the Bondage of *Lockleven*, and lodged Her safely the first night in my Lord SETON'S own House at *Netherce* in *West Lothian*. They keeping still Faith to God and their Soveraigns, after this action spread even under Persecution, as *Camamoile* trodden down, both to more Wealth and Honour.

'Twas for the Vertue of the SETONS that Noble Motto *in via virtuti via nulla, no way hard or unpassable to vertue*, was given them. And where, I pray, in their perswasion then, and still in yours is the seat of Vertue but in this Bread of the strong?

If the Prophet *Elias* refreshed with that Bread, which was only a Figure of our Sacrament, walked fourty days and as many nights, wonder you that those great Men, of whom you have the Honour to descend, receiving it

* David de Rodon, or plain Dérodon (*Michaud, Biographie Universelle*), a French Calvinist, published at Geneva in 1654 *Le Tombeau de la Messe*, a translation of which was issued at Edinburgh in 1681, with this rather premature title, "The Funeral of the Mass, or the Mass Dead and Buried without Hope of Resurrection."

often were quickened to generosity, and Christian Duty to King and Country?

SIR CHRISTOPHER SETON by ROBERT A BRUCE, surnamed *the Good*, merited for his Devotion to the Sacrifice of the Mass, to have after his Death the daily Sacrifice offered for him, and this was performed by the same King ROBERT, whose Sister he had Married, for he founded a Chapel near *Dumfrice*, call'd *Christel* Chappel, and a Priest to offer Sacrifice in it for the Soul of *Good Sir Christofer*, as he out of a loving respect was pleased to call him. This renowned Champion dyed at *London* as Honourably as Cruelly by the hands of the *English* whom he had often stoutly opposed and pestured in the service of his Country.

But why was *Christofer* the first his Predecessor call'd more Devout than Worly? But because his Heart was powerfully, tho sweetly, drawn to this Sacrament, as Iron to a Loadstone? *Hoc specialiter*, says *Thomas a Kempis* l. 4, de imit. Ch. c. I. *Devotorum corda trahit*, this Sacrament draws by a special way the hearts of Devout People; and thus from a special respect to this Sacrament a Man worthily obtains the title of Devout.

Lord *George* the third a Prudent Man, and very Familiar with King JAMES the third, devided his Devotion to the Altar with his Lady Dame *Jeane Hepburn*, called by the History a Noble and Wise Lady, Daughter to the Earl of *Bothwell*.

O Lord, said, the Royal Prophet, *I have loved the beauty of thy House*, *Psal.* 25. Were not those two great Souls inflam'd with the same Zeal, when striving as it were who might do best, they set themselves to decore the Colledge-Church of SETON?

The Lord paved and seiled the quire; and the Lady raised an Ile on the North-side, and having taken down that on the South side, Built by the Devotion of Dame *Catherine Sinclair*, rebuilt it again with proportion to make a perfit *Cross*, and founded two Prebends to serve the Altars. The Lord, not to speak of other Ornaments, gave it a compleat Sute of Cloth of Gold; And the Lady compleat Sutes of all the Colours of the Church, for Advent, Lent, Martyrs, Confessors, Virgins; for all the solemn Feasts of the Year of Purple and Crimson Velvet richly flower'd with Gold, white Damask, &c. Not forgetting a Sute of black Vestiments for the Dead with other fine Chasubels. Also a great Silver Cross, a Silver Eucharist *Ciborium* or Remonstrance for the B. Sacrament with a fair Chalice Silver and Gilt, all for the Majesty and Decorement of the Altar.

Some may think I had done better in a Dedicatory, to busie my Pen in describing the Courage of a Governour of *Berwick* of the House of *Seton*, who in cold Blood chused rather to see his Son violently put to Death than to faile in his trust to King and Country, and in such like signal actions admired by Men, than in rehersing these liberalities made to the Altar, which are but petty things in the Eyes of worlings.

But my ayne is not so much to shew the worly grandeur of your Family,

as the Devotion to this Mystery, (which makes the Subject of my Book) of the great ones in it. This their Devotion made them truly great. Take from a Man the sense and respect he has for God, and for what relates to him, and what is he with all he has, or may possess? Little, a nothing, an object of contempt. As God dismally at last slights them who slight him, and what regards his Honour, so he stupendiously glorifies them, who have made it their work to seek his Glory. *I Samuel 2 v. 30.* Live then forever Souls nobly affected to contribute to the Majesty of this daily Sacrifice, which is upon Earth God's greatest Glory.

O change of times and manners! where is he or she in *Scotland* now a dayes, who make it their study to imitate those fore-mentioned Noble Persons? What a loss is the want of such for the House of God! How many poor Families, Monasteries, Churches, and Altars mourned at the Death, especially of that pious Lady?

If the monastery of *Seins* in *Burromure nigh Edinburgh* were standing, it would tell you 'twas hither she retired herself after the decease of her Lord; to attend in solitude with more freedom to God. I am now defac'd, she is Dead, who having chiefly founded me, while she lived, conserved me, and decored me.

SIR, can you forget, or not respect the memory of so much piety? To which they were powerfully moved by the belief they had of the adorable Sacrifice of the Altar. As often as you see the three Crescents in your Arms, remember that you must increase or grow as they did in a lively Faith of this Mystery, which is the seed of Divine Love and Charity to your Neighbour. I know you have hazarded something already for your Faith, but if an other occasion be given you, mindful of one of the Noble Mottos of your House, *hazard yet further*, in what is prudently acknowledged to be the Service of God, there is no danger to be redoubted, or so much as apprehended. Your very name SET-ON minds you of generosity in what you act for God, or may undertake for the Service of his Vice-gerent upon Earth, the King.

God and you best know what hope you have lay'd up in Heaven, as the Apostle speaks to the *Colos. I v. 5.* But much of Your Charitie the World has seen. I am the Subject of a notable part of it, and Witness of your sheltering poor Strangers, considering distressed Tenents, clothing the naked, feeding orphelins, visiting the imprisoned in Person, the sick by almes, entring some fore-lorne into the number of your domesticks, and honestly burying the Dead, that had no Friend or Relation, able to do that Duty. Such actions done in the Spirit of Christ, make savour at present in the Eucharist, the sweetness of the hidden Manna there, and will Crown hereafter the Christian in the solemn day of the general Resurrection.

Infin, Since the Treasures of your Arms being Flower *Delucies*, as good as tell you, you must flourish, strive to flourish in the Faith of your ancestors. *Ambulo in fide*, sayes the Author of the Imitation of Christ, *1. 4. C. II, exemplis confortatus Sanctorum, I walk in the Faith of the Real Body*

and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, *comfortably held in it by the example of the Saints*, this Faith gives Men a Victory over the World making them fear, esteem and Love only this God of Love, (a Love surprising in this Mystery.) And being fully satisfied, with the expected possession of him, breath now after the Loveliness of his Eternity. This Flowrishing condition, I cordially wish you as I am, SIR, *your most humble and obliged Servant*,
N. N.

II. SIR GEORGE SETON OF GARLETON. Sir George Seton succeeded his father and went abroad young. He was "well travelled in Flanders, France, Italy, Germany, Bohemia, and England." On May 18, 1704, "There being a proclamation emitted by the Privy Council appointing each Presbytery in this Kingdom to send in to it lists of all the Papists that are within their bounds. Accordingly Mr. John Jenkinson, Minister of Athelstaneford, presented the following list of Papists living in his said parish; viz. Sir George Seton of Garleton, Barbara Wauchop his Ladie, Andrew, John, Barbara, and Mary their children," besides a number of servants.

Sir George married Barbara, daughter of Andrew Wauchope, Laird of Niddrie-Wauchope,* of an old family, by whom he

* This very ancient family was originally settled in the south of Scotland, in the district of Wauchopedale, in the County of Dumfries. The direct ancestors of the present family were hereditary Bailies (or Sheriffs—an important office in feudal ages) to the Keiths, afterward Earls Marischal of Scotland, from whom they got the lands of Niddrie *Marischal*. The Wauchopes of Niddrie have been seated in the Parish of Liberton, near Edinburgh, for more than five hundred years continuously, and are the oldest untitled family in Mid-Lothian. Robert Wauchope of Niddrie founded a chapel in honor of the B. V. M. in 1389. One of the most distinguished men of this still flourishing family was Robert, son of Gilbert Wauchope of Niddrie, who studied at Paris and was a Doctor of the Sorbonne. He was attached to the Diocese of St. Andrew's and filled a chair of theology in that university. In 1539 the administration in temporals and spirituals of the Archbishopric of Armagh, in Ireland, was given him, and on the 23d of March, 1545, he obtained the pallium for that Primatial See. He was one of the few English-speaking prelates who took part in the Council of Trent: *R. D. Robertus Vaucop, Scotus, archiepiscopus Armachanus. Elect. 1541. Obiit 1551.* He died at Paris on the 10th of November, 1551. (Brady: *Episcopal Succession in England, Scotland, and Ireland*, I. 217; II.

had four sons and three daughters. Of George and John hereafter; James, a captain in Keith's regiment, died in France without issue; Andrew, an officer in Irelande's regiment, died without issue at the camp of Randasto, in Italy, 10th October, 1719; Mary married John Arrat of Fofarty, and was alive on December 1, 1769, but nothing is known of her later.

III. SIR GEORGE SETON OF GARLETON. Sir George Seton succeeded his father as third baronet. Born in 1685, he would have become, but for the attainder, sixth Earl of Winton. He engaged in the "Rising" of 1715, and was taken prisoner at Preston, in Lancashire, England; was amnestied, and passed over to France, where he died, at Versailles, it is said without issue, on March 9, 1769, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. With him ended the Garleton baronetcy.

It is not certain that there are no representatives of the Garleton line. If it could be proved, they would be also the representatives of the Earls of Winton. Garleton was once called Garmylton or Gairmiltoun. A distinguished man and journalist in his day at Washington, the late William Winston Seaton, of the *National Intelligencer*, of whom a biographical sketch was published at Boston in 1871, claimed to be descended from this branch of the family, and that Henry, his ancestor, who had been involved in resistance to the Prince of Orange, "sought refuge in 1690 in the colony of Virginia." He settled in Gloucester County, on the Pyanketank River. There is a letter in the British Museum from Dorothy Seaton, widow, dated 21st July, 1730, which gives her address as at "Seaton's Ferry on Pyanketank, Virginia." The present representative of Mr. Seaton's family is, I have understood, Commander Seaton-Schroeder, U.S.N.

292; and Waterworth: *Council of Trent*, p. 291.) The family long continued Catholic, and in 1698, of the ten fathers of the Society of Jesus in Scotland, two were lodged at Niddrie Marischal. (Bellesheim: *Hist. of Cath. Ch. in Scot.*, p. 369.)

CHAPTER IX.

SETON OF WINDYGOU, BART., 1641-1671.

ROBERT, the youngest son of George, third Earl of Winton, born 10th November, 1641, was created a Knight-Baronet of Nova Scotia, 24th January, 1671. He received from his father as appanage the estate of Windygoul, in the Parish of Tranent, and so called from its being situated on a spot much exposed to the wind. He died without issue in November, 1671, and was buried in Seton Church. He is described by Kingston as "a good scholar." With him the baronetcy expired. The grim old tower of Windygoul is now a picturesque ruin. It can be visited from Tranent. Sir Robert Seton's mother was the Hon. Elizabeth Maxwell, daughter of John, seventh Lord Herries, and second wife to the third Earl of Winton.

CHAPTER X.

SETON OF OLIVESTOB, -1601.

THE HON. SIR THOMAS SETON, fourth son of the first Earl of Winton, was provided by his father with the Olivestob estate. The name is commonly derived from *Holy* and *Stop*, because the Sacred Host rested in a repository erected here during the annual procession with the Blessed Sacrament which was formerly made from Preston, originally *Priest's town*, to Newbattle Abbey. I suggest another derivation: the words "Holy" and "Stob"; and that it shows it to have been, at one time, a place of refuge or sanctuary. It was anciently the custom to mark the limits of ground so set apart by a cross or crosses. A cross for this purpose was called a Stob Cross. The Gaelic word *stob* signifies in the Cleveland dialect "a stake defining the limits of an enclosure"; and the space within these precincts was called "Holy Ground." The learned antiquary, Alexander Laing, says: "Places known as Stob Cross, in Scotland, are invariably at the outskirts of towns or villages." This is exactly the case with our Olivestob. In later times, when out-door processions with the Blessed Sacrament were common, there was a Repository there, and the Sacred Host *stopped* there, precisely because it was already a holy place. Olivestob is very near Prestonpans, and is now called Bankton House. It is a fine old mansion. The celebrated Colonel Gardiner lived there, and was killed almost beside it in the battle of 1745.

Sir Thomas married Agnes, daughter of Drummond of Corskelpy, of the noble family of Perth, by whom he had three daughters. Of these: Margaret, the eldest, married George Seton, fourth Baron of Cariston. The next, whose name is not given, married Major Keith, Sheriff of the Mearns. The youngest, Grizel, married James Inglis, living in Edinburgh, and left descendants. Miss Reid-Seton, of Leyton, Essex, now claims to represent this branch of the Setons through descent from this marriage. Failing male heir, Olivestob passed, presumably by purchase, to the Hamiltons, one of whom had married a Margaret Seton, but died without issue in 1560.

CHAPTER XI.

SETON OF ST. GERMAINS, -1718.

THE HON. SIR JOHN SETON, son of the first Earl of Winton, got the lands of Saint Germain after his brother obtained the Earldom of Eglinton. It was a beautiful sylvan domain, suggestive of spiritual peace and honest pleasure, where the woods were vocal with

“The moan of doves in immemorial elms.”

In early times there had been a hospital or hospice there, and the ivy-grown remains of a very ancient building are still seen beside the rippling burn. I have no doubt that the name is derived from Saint Germanus of Auxerre, who twice visited Britain and left the deep impress of his sanctity and learning upon the people. It must have reached even unto the land of the Picts and Scots. “St. Germanus was the titular saint of many churches in England, and of the great abbey of Selby in Yorkshire,” says Alban Butler, *July 26*. In French it is St. Germain, and under this form his devotion would be introduced by the Normans into England and Scotland. In “Ragman’s Roll” mention is made of a certain “Bartholomew Mestre de la maison de St. Germen, anno 1296”; and at a later date the house and its revenues came into the possession of the Knights Templars. After their suppression they were bestowed by James IV. on King’s College, Aberdeen. But how long they remained an endowment of that seat of learning we know not, nor how or when they came to the Setons. Sir John married Margaret, daughter

of Mr. William Kellie, “one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice,” says Lord Kingston in his *Continuation*, followed by Mr. Seton in his *History* (II., 711); but no such person is found among these officials in Hailes’s *Historical Account*, and Nisbet merely says that she “was daughter to Mr. William Kellie of Newtoun,” and that the arms of Seton and Kellie were yet to be seen on a stone above the gate of Saint Germain’s.

II. JOHN SETON OF ST. GERMAINS. He succeeded his father in this beautiful estate, and married Anna Turnbull, by whom he had a son George, baptized in Tranent parish kirk, April 27, 1675, and a daughter Anna, baptized December 15, 1676. No more is known of him.

III. GEORGE SETON OF ST. GERMAINS. Succeeded his father, and died on the 11th of January, 1718. He never married, being too poor to support a family; since his fortune was now only sufficient to starve on like a gentleman.

With him ended the line.

CHAPTER XII.

SETON OF BARNES, 1553-1588.

THE first of this family was John, a son of the seventh Lord Seton. He was born about 1553. He is described as a brave young man who was early sent on his travels and prepared for public life. Nisbet says that he was bred up at the Court of Spain, and honored by King Philip with Knighthood in the Order of St. James of Calatrava, which was one of the four semi-religious, semi-military orders founded in the Middle Ages to defend Church and State against the Moors, and the most esteemed Order of Knighthood in Spain in the sixteenth century. The king himself was Grand Master. Sir John was also made a Gentleman of the Bedchamber, whose badge was a golden key suspended from a blue ribbon, and granted a yearly pension of two thousand crowns. While at the height of his favor with Philip II. he was summoned home by King James VI., "unwilling to have so gallant a subject out of his court and service." He was employed in Scotland in various high offices, among others that of Master of the Horse, and on 3d January, 1586, was constituted first Master of His Majesty's Household for life, with all "the privileges and fees" thereto appertaining. On the 17th February, 1588, he was admitted an Extraordinary Lord in the College of Justice, in place of his brother Alexander promoted. The king's letter of nomination bears that his Majesty was well informed of "his literature, good judgment and qualifications."

Sir John married in September, 1588, at the house of Lord Ogilvy, in Angus, where a numerous assembly of northern lords and their families was gathered, Ann, daughter of the seventh Lord Forbes,* by whom he left a son who succeeded him. He "got for his appanage, from his father," the lands of Barnes, which are situated on the eastern slope of the Garleton Hills, where he began an immense and magnificent structure, intending it for a Court, but which he never lived to complete. Had he survived he would have been surely raised to the peerage, but he died on the 25th of May, 1594, "in the strength of his age, and was buried in the College Kirk of Seton." In *The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland* (II., 233-234) there is a plan and view of Barnes, of which the learned authors say:

"The most remarkable features connected with the structure are the six square projecting towers which surround the walls. . . . These towers are provided with shot-holes which enfilade the walls. They give the ruins a thoroughly military character and it is this combination of the characteristics of Feudal architecture, with an advanced symmetrical style of domestic planning, which makes this a most interesting and valuable plan."

Barnes Castle was probably inspired by Sir John's residence in Castile, the land of Towers *par excellence*, and his early association with the Order of Calatrava. It is easily visited from Haddington.

II. SIR JOHN SETON OF BARNES. Sir John Seton of Barnes was served heir to his father on the 3d October, 1615.

He was a gallant man, and was made an officer of the Court by King Charles I. He acquired "from Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvair, land in Ireland worth five hundred pounds ster-

* The surname of Forbes is derived from the lands so called, in Aberdeenshire. It is a great Scotch family whose peerage dates from 1442. Jean, eldest daughter of this seventh lord, was married to James, fourth Lord Ogilvy, which accounts for the marriage being celebrated at his house. The noble family of Ogilvy derives from the ancient Maormors of Angus. It is now represented in the peerage by the Earl of Airlie, a title conferred on his ancestor the sixth Lord Ogilvy in 1639.

ling a year''; yet he had little rest or time to enjoy himself and complete his father's castle, because he was imprisoned and fined in a considerable sum of money by the Scotch Rebels for being in arms in 1646 with the Marquess of Montrose.

He was thrice married, but had no offspring by his second wife, Anne, daughter of John, sixth Lord Fleming. His first wife was Isabella, daughter to Ogilvy of Powrie, by whom he had one son and three daughters: Alexander, who, going to visit his father's Irish estate, met and married a lady of the noble family of O'Ferrall, but died without succession. His wife was an O'Ferrall Buoy, of the Lords of Annaly, in the County Longford, descended from Fearghail, chief of the Sept, who fell at the battle of Clontarf, against the Danes, A.D. 1014.

Isabel, married to the Laird of Barfoord.

Margaret, married to the Tutor * of Duffus in Moray.

Lilias, married to Sir James Ramsay of Benholm, Kincardineshire.

His third wife was a daughter (name not given) of Sir John Home of North Berwick, by whom he had two sons and a daughter:

George, who succeeded his father.

Charles, died young.

Jane, married to John Hay of Aberlady.

III. GEORGE SETON OF BARNES. Of him little is known, except that he succeeded, married, and had an heir named John.

IV. SIR JOHN SETON OF BARNES. Of him also very little is known, except that he died in March, 1659, and—from his last will and testament, subscribed at Edinburgh on the 18th of February, 1659—that his wife's name was Margaret

* This word, which in the civil law means only the guardian of a young laird and administrator of his estate, came to have in Scotland the social significance of a title of honor, and is frequently so used.

Hay. He orders that if he should die in Edinburgh his body was to be taken to Seton, to be interred in the place of his father's burial "with decency, but without pomp or great show."

V. SIR GEORGE SETON (last) OF BARNES. He first appears in 1704 and in 1707. After the death, in France, of the fourth Earl of Dunfermline, 1694, he assumed the title—the estates had been confiscated—and proclaimed the "Pretender" at Kelso on the 24th October, 1715. A few weeks later he was included in the surrender at Preston. The same year he sold the lands of Barnes to Colonel Charteris. It is not known how he escaped the consequences of the insurrection, but in 1732 he appears to have resided very quietly at Haddington. By his wife Anne, daughter of Sir George Suttie of Balgone,* he had a son and a daughter: James, of whom hereafter; Anne, who married John Don, of the town of Edinburgh, by whom she had a son, Sir George Don, Governor of Gibraltar.

Sir George was buried in Seton Church.

VI. JAMES SETON (I). He was Governor of the Island of St. Vincent in the West Indies, and in 1773 presented a petition to King George III. to be allowed the title, rank, and privileges of Earl of Dunfermline. The claim, while not positively rejected, was never acted upon, probably for want of funds. I remember my father's cousin, the late Sir George Cayley, telling him that it took "two English fortunes to prosecute a peerage case before the House of Lords."

* George Suttie, Esq., of Addiston, was created a *Baronet of Nova Scotia* in 1702, and married Marion, daughter and heiress of John Semple of Balgone, of an ancient family in Renfrewshire, which was raised to the peerage in the person of Sir John Semple (also Sympil and now Sempill) in 1488. Sir George Suttie's great-grandson, and the 4th baronet, assumed the additional surname and arms of Grant, on succeeding his aunt Janet Grant, dowager Countess of Hyndford, in the estate of Preston Grange, County Haddington.

By his wife Susan, a great beauty in her day, daughter of James Moray of Abercairney, in the County of Perth, and of Lady Christian Montgomerie, daughter of the ninth Earl of Eglinton, he had, with other children who died young or unmarried, a son James, of whom hereafter. The Governor of St. Vincent died in London at an advanced age and very much respected.

VII. JAMES SETON (2). He was a lieutenant-colonel in the army. Married Margaret, only daughter of the Rev. John Findlater, and had among other children Catharine, born 23d May, 1818. She married John Coventry, Esq., of Burgate House, Hants, formerly Rector of Tywardteath and great-grandson of the sixth Earl of Coventry. They have eleven children, of whom two daughters, nuns in Edinburgh, and John, the eldest son and heir, born 19th February, 1846, who married, in 1876, Emily Mary, daughter of Joseph Weld, Esq., of Lymington, Hants, of the old Catholic family of the Welds *of Lulworth*, by whom he has two sons and five daughters. One of the sons, Bernard Seton Coventry, born in 1887, represents in the latest generation the family of Barnes, and consequently the old Earls of Dunfermline—said, however, with reservation of the claim of my nearer kinsman descended from Andrew and Margaret Seton, as will appear farther on. I have seen at Burgate House many portraits and memorials of the Seton family.

Colonel Seton, of Brookheath, Hants, died in 1831.

CHAPTER XIII.

SETON OF KYLESMURE, 1562-1635.

I. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF KYLESMURE, Knight.

He was born in 1562, the fourth and youngest son of George, seventh Lord Seton. Kingston, in his *Continuation*, describes him as a brave man, and for some years Chief Justice in the south border of Scotland. It was necessary to be a man of great physical courage and iron nerve to enforce law and order in such an age and in such a district. In a letter from Sir William to Lord Binning, he gives an account of an Assize Court held at Peebles in 1616, in which twenty-one cattle-lifters were hanged on the same day. After James VI. had come to the English throne, Sir William was made Master of the Posts of Scotland, a position which he held under this king and his successor, from both of whom he enjoyed a pension. He was also at the same time actively engaged in other public business, especially in keeping the peace among the Borderers and punishing their infractions. He resigned the Post Master-ship in 1623, when his eldest son got the place. Sir William married a daughter of Stirling of Glorat, and had two sons and three daughters: William, who succeeded him, and John, who was an officer in the Scotch Regiment in France under Colonel Hepburn. This famous regiment was raised in March, 1633, by Sir John Hepburn. "They were all good soldiers, reared in the school of Gustavus Adolphus, and most of them gentlemen." * It formed part of the army of Lorraine, and saw some hard service on the Rhine.

Sir William died at the age of seventy-three years in his

* *The Scots Guards*, II., 212.

house at Haddington, in 1635, and was buried in “the college kirk of Seton.”

II. *SIR WILLIAM SETON (2) OF KYLESMURE.* He succeeded his father as Master of the Posts in Scotland during his lifetime, as appears from a charter of the king dated at Theobald’s, 2d April, 1623, appointing him his Majesty’s Chief Post Master, with a fee of £500.

On Wednesday, 26th May, 1625, at Whitehall, King Charles I. ratified a grant to Sir William Seton (1), Kt., and after his death to his two sons, William and John, of a yearly pension of £1,200, also the gift of the Post Mastership and fee of £500 as above. The second Sir William never married—but died of a good age in 1662, and was buried in the church of Seton—or the office might have become hereditary in his family, which would have been natural in that corrupt age and under the Stuarts.

CHAPTER XIV.

SETON OF MELDRUM.

WILLIAM SETON, a younger son of Sir Alexander Seton, Lord of Gordon, married Elizabeth, Heiress of Meldrum, an ancient family in Aberdeenshire, and founded the Setons *of Meldrum*. William was slain at the battle of Brechin, 18th May, 1452, leaving an only son, Alexander, who succeeded him, and is styled *dominus de Meldrum*, in 1469. The line ended as it had come, in an heiress Elizabeth, sixth in descent from William Seton and Elizabeth Meldrum. In 1610 she married John Urquhart of Craigfintry, and had several children, the eldest of whom, Patrick, succeeded to the estate, and was the first of the Urquharts of Meldrum, who still continue, as may be seen in Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

CHAPTER XV.

SETON OF TOUCH.

ALEXANDER SETON, first Earl of Huntly, had a son, likewise named Alexander, by his second marriage, about 18th January, 1426, with Lydia, daughter and heiress of Sir John Hay of Tullibody, in the County of Clackmannan. This son succeeded to his mother's estate and was the first Seton of Touch.

I. SIR ALEXANDER SETON, Laird of Touch and Tullibody.

He was appointed Hereditary Armour Bearer to the King, and is so designated in a charter dated November, 1488. He married Lady Elizabeth Erskine,* daughter to Thomas, Lord Erskine, claiming to be Earl of Mar, and died at an advanced age, leaving a son and successor. He was an example of the Seton qualities of strong constitution and longevity.

II. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF TOUCH. He died, like so many of his kindred, on the field of Flodden, in 1513. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander, Lord Home, by whom he had two sons, Ninian and John.

I believe Ninian is the only one of our family who ever bore this Christian name, which is that of an early Scotch saint, A.D. 360-432. More than sixty churches were dedicated to him throughout Scotland. Touch House, which is three

* Erskine is a great and ancient name derived from the lands of Erskine, on the Clyde. "The Earldom of Mar is the oldest Scottish earldom by descent, as it is in many respects the most remarkable in the empire" (Riddell). One branch of the Erskines is Earl of Mar and another is Earl of Mar and Kellie—an anomalous outcome of a family dispute and peerage decision which made a considerable stir in Scotland a few years ago.

miles and a half from Stirling, is within Saint Ninian's Parish, which accounts for the baptismal name of this Seton.

III. SIR NINIAN SETON OF TOUCH. Married Janet, daughter to Sir Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix, by whom he had several children. Chisholm is a very old Scotch family. It is both Border and Highland. Sir Edmund, first of Cromlix, was the youngest son of Robert de Chesholme, by Marion, daughter of Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig. The head of the Highland branch of the family is distinguished as a *The*. It used to be a boast, in former days, that only three men in Scotland were entitled to "The" before their names—The Pope, The King, The Chisholm.

IV. SIR WALTER SETON OF TOUCH. He succeeded his father about 1567. Married, before 1545, Lady Elizabeth Erskine, daughter to John, fifth Lord Erskine, and Earl of Mar. By her he had three sons.

V. JAMES SETON OF TOUCH. Succeeded to the estate and married, first, a daughter of Sir William Cranstoun *of that Ilk*. Cranstoun is a very old Scotch family, raised to the peerage in 1609. It is now dormant or extinct. Samuel Cranstoun was royal Governor of Rhode Island in 1724. In his essay on Warren Hastings, Macaulay makes an application of "the old motto of one of the great predatory families of Teviotdale: *Thou shalt want ere I want.*" It is that of the Cranstouns. James Seton had some hand in the still mysterious "Raid of Ruthven," but was pardoned by the king from Stirling, 24th October, 1583. By his first marriage he had a son and heir named John. He married, secondly, Eline-Jane, daughter of Edmonstone *of that Ilk*, and of Ednam, County Roxburgh, by whom he had Alexander, ancestor of the Setons of Abercorn, and two other sons.

VI. JOHN SETON OF TOUCH. Succeeded his father. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Home of Wedderburn, and died in 1622, leaving a son James.

VII. *JAMES SETON OF TOUCH.* Married Ann, daughter to Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully, by whom he had a son who succeeded him, and a daughter Euphemia, who married William, seventh Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, created Earl of Dumfries in 1633. The peerage is now held by the Marquess of Bute.

VIII. *JAMES SETON OF TOUCH.* He was served heir to his father on 23d of April, 1630, and suffered many hardships on account of his attachment to King Charles I. He married Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Archibald Stirling of Garden and Keir, by whom he had a daughter Lucy, born March, 1676, and a son James.

IX. *JAMES SETON OF TOUCH.* Succeeded his father, and, like him, was a Royalist. After the Restoration he was gratified with a large pension. He married his cousin of the family of Stirling, and had a son Archibald, his successor.

X. *ARCHIBALD SETON OF TOUCH.* He was served heir to his father in the lands and barony of Touch and the hereditary office of Armour Bearer, in November, 1702, and a few years after got into imminent peril, with other Jacobite gentlemen, for drinking the health of their prince whom Whigs called the "Pretender." In 1721 he married Barbara, only daughter and heiress of Alexander Hunter of Muirhouse, by whom he had a son James, who succeeded him, and a daughter Elizabeth, who succeeded her brother.

XI. *JAMES SETON OF TOUCH.* Was served heir to his father 27th July, 1726, but dying unmarried in 1742, he was succeeded in his estates and dignity by his sister.

ELIZABETH SETON OF TOUCH. From her as heiress the name and property went zigzagging for several generations among different families, and are now (1898) held by

SIR ALAN-HENRY SETON-STEUART of Allanton and Touch, Bart.

CHAPTER XVI.

SETON OF ABERCORN, BART.

THESE Setons derive their branch designation from the Barony of Abercorn, which they possessed at one time. The Manor belonged in the reign of King David I. (1124-1153) to the Avenels, of whom I have written in an earlier chapter. It now gives a ducal title to the head of the Hamiltons. The first of the family was—

I. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF KILCREUCH. He was the second son of James Seton (5) of Touch, who, being “a man of parts and learning,” was admitted an ordinary Lord of Session, on the 4th of February, 1626, by the title of Lord Kilcreuch. He was knighted by Charles I. at Holyrood on 12th July, 1633. On account of his infirmity of sight and many years, being a scrupulously honest man in an unscrupulous age, he resigned his seat on the Bench, with its honor and emoluments, on 6th of June, 1637. He married Marion, daughter to William Maule of Glaster, of the Maules of Panmure, which is a family of great antiquity and eminence. The Earldom of Panmure was created in 1646 for Patrick Maule of Panmure, a staunch Royalist.

I have wondered how Nathaniel Hawthorne, who ought to have known better, could have made such a blunder as to give the aristocratic name of *Maule* to a typical plebeian, iconoclast, and radical in his *House of the Seven Gables*.

Sir Alexander had, with other issue, a son—

II. ALEXANDER SETON OF GRADEN. He was a poet and a fine musician. Married Margaret (or Janet?), daughter of

Cornwall of Bonhard, an ancient family in West Lothian. Died about 1645, and had, with other issue, Walter, his successor.

III. SIR WALTER SETON OF ABERCORN, First Baronet. He had a charter of the Lairdship of Abercorn, County Linlithgow, in 1662. Having filled an important position in the Revenue Service of the Government, he was created a Baronet *of Nova Scotia* by King Charles II. in 1663.

The hereditary order of Baronets was instituted in Scotland by Charles I. in 1625, and as in the earlier English baronetage of James I., only estated gentlemen were selected for the honor. Scotch baronets are called *of Nova Scotia*, in North America, because their institution was connected in its origin with Sir William Alexander's scheme of colonizing that country. They do not use in their arms the Red Hand of Ulster, but have by long-established custom and prescription the privilege of Supporters. As a personal decoration they are entitled to wear an Orange-tawny Riband and Badge of Saint Andrew.

Sir Walter married Christian, daughter of Dundas of Dundas, and had, with other issue, a son Walter, who succeeded him.

The family of Dundas is one of great eminence.

IV. SIR WALTER SETON OF ABERCORN, Second Baronet. He was a distinguished advocate at the Scottish Bar, and an official of Edinburgh town. Married Euphemia, daughter of Sir Robert Murray of Priestfield, by whom he had, with other issue, Henry, third baronet. Sir Walter died on January 3, 1708.

V. SIR HENRY SETON OF ABERCORN, Third Baronet. Succeeded his father, and on the death of James Seton of Touch without issue, in 1742, he became, as heir male of Sir Alexander Seton, eldest son of the first Earl of Huntly, *de jure* Lord Gordon. The Abercorn Setons have never ceased to

claim this ancient title. He married Barbara, daughter of Sir John Wemyss of Bogie, Bart., and had, with other issue, Henry, his successor, and George, who married a distant kinswoman, Barbara Seton, sister of William Seton, of New York, my great-grandfather. Another son, Robert, is often mentioned in old Mrs. Seton's correspondence, as now in America and now in India. His wife also and a daughter are mentioned, but I cannot gather from the letters what the former's maiden name was. Sir Henry died in 1751, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

VI. SIR HENRY SETON OF ABERCORN, Fourth Baronet. He was captain in the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot, and served in North America. Among the Land Papers in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, New York, is a certificate dated December 2, 1765, from General Gage, that Capt. Sir Henry Seton, Bart., served during the war (for the Reduction of Canada) as aide-de-camp to Honble. Major-Gen. Monckton; a Petition of Richard Maitland* and Sir Henry Seton, dated December 13, 1766, for a grant of 8,000 acres to the rear of Coeyman's confirmation; and a Return of Survey for Sir Henry Seton, Bart., Captain, of 3,000 acres on the west side of Hudson's River, in the County of Albany (now Durham, Greene County); also a Map of the same.

Both Sir Henry and Colonel Maitland were particular friends of William Seton, of New York.

Sir Henry Seton married Margaret, daughter to Alexander Hay of Drumelzier, by whom he had a son Alexander, who succeeded him on his death in 1788.

VII. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF ABERCORN, Fifth Baronet.

* This is the one whose tardy marriage of conscience at New York in 1772, while in the public service, settled the famous Lauderdale peerage claim in 1884 in favor of his great-grandson, who succeeded as thirteenth earl to the historic title and estates of the family.

He was born on May 4, 1772, and belonged to the Honorable East India Company's service. Married May 20, 1795, Lydia, daughter of Sir Charles-William Blunt, Bart., whose baronetcy was created in June, 1720. Sir Alexander died at Calcutta on February 4, 1810. Two of his sons succeeded to the title. Two died in the service of the H. E. I. C. in India. Bruce, the third son, born 25th June, 1799, was a Colonel H. E. I. C. S., and married Miss Emma Orton. He had, besides other children, Charles-Compton and Emma-Alice.

Charles Compton, late Lieutenant Royal Engineers, born July 24, 1846, and married, 1868, Phœbe-Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry-William Ripley, Bart., M.P., and has by her Charles-Henry; Bruce-Hugh; and Margaret-Annie-Phœbe, who married, in 1898, Captain Arthur Frankland, a younger son of the Yorkshire baronet of this name. Emma-Alice, married, July 18, 1876, Henry, fourth son of Sir Henry-William Ripley, Bart., of Lightcliffe, near Halifax, and died in 1884, leaving Henry-Edward, Dorothy-Alice-Seton, and Marian-Jeannette.

VIII. *SIR HENRY-JOHN SETON OF ABERCORN*, Sixth Baronet. He was born 4th April, 1796. Was a captain in the Army, and served in the Peninsular War with the Fifty-second Regiment and the Fifth Dragoon Guards. Was a Groom-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria. Probably the earliest autograph letter of her Majesty in existence is one addressed to Sir Henry Seton. It is in childish print characters, and runs thus:

"How do you do, my dear Sir Henry?
Your little friend, VICTORIA."

It is preserved among the souvenirs and treasures of Durham House, London.

Sir Henry died, unmarried, in 1868, and was succeeded by his brother.

IX. SIR CHARLES-HAY SETON OF ABERCORN, Seventh Baronet. Born 14th November, 1797. Was a captain in the famous Fifth Dragoon Guards. Married Caroline, daughter of Walter-Parry Hodges, Esq., Receiver-General for the County of Dorset, and by her had an only son, who succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1869.

X. SIR BRUCE-MAXWELL SETON OF ABERCORN, Eighth and present Baronet. Sir Bruce was born 31st January, 1836. Is a Deputy-Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets. Has been Private Secretary to the Lord President of the Council, 1867-74, and is a retired official of the War Office. He is a great traveller, and passed through New York on his way around the world in 1874-75. He married, 30th January, 1886, Helen, daughter of General Richard Hamilton, C.B., a distinguished officer of the Indian Army.

Durham House, Chelsea, London, where I have received a generous hospitality, contains a large and valuable collection of paintings, sketches, works of art and antiquity, *objets de vertu*, and heirlooms, such as Queen Mary's lace collar, an old silver snuffbox with a pierced medallion of Charles I. on the lid, a small gold ring with a strand of the same king's hair—three precious Stuart relics; an Andrea Ferrara claymore, Alexander Pope's reading-chair, and a formidable Burmese sword captured by General Hamilton (Sir Bruce's brother-in-law) in a hand-to-hand conflict with a renowned dacoit named Bohshwey, who had long terrorized a whole district in India. Lady Seton is remarkably accomplished, a writer of great ability, and a beautiful woman.

SETON OF PITMEDDEN, BART.

William Seton of Meldrum had by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Innes of Leuchars, a son James.

I. JAMES SETON OF PITMEDDEN. He was born in 1553,



Bruce-Maxwell Seton

SIR BRUCE-MAXWELL SETON, BART.

and acquired the lands of Pitmedden in Aberdeenshire. Married Margaret, granddaughter of William Rolland, Master of the Mint in Aberdeen, under King James V. By her he had an only son Alexander.

II. ALEXANDER SETON OF PITMEDDEN. Married Beatrix, daughter of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugus, by whom he had, with several daughters, a son John.

III. JOHN SETON OF PITMEDDEN. He is described in Douglas's *Baronage of Scotland* (p. 183) as "a man of good natural parts, which were greatly improved by a liberal education and travelling." He was a devoted Royalist, and when in command of a detachment at the Bridge of Dee, on the 18th June, 1639, was shot through the heart while carrying the king's standard. His body was interred at Aberdeen with military honors.

By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Samuel Johnstone of Elphinstone, Bart., he had two sons, James and Alexander.

IV. JAMES SETON OF PITMEDDEN. Succeeded to the estate in 1639. With his mother and younger brother he was driven from his home by the Covenanters, who also harried the lands and plundered the house. After completing his education at Aberdeen, he went abroad and visited most of the Courts of Europe. He was a gallant naval officer, and died of wounds received in the attack of the Dutch on the English fleet at Chatham in 1667. He was succeeded by his brother.

V. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF PITMEDDEN, First Baronet. Sir Alexander was bred to the profession of the Law, and greatly distinguished himself, receiving the honor of Knighthood from Charles II. in 1664. He was nominated a Senator of the College of Justice, in 1677, under the title of Lord Pitmedden, and was created a Baronet *of Nova Scotia*, 11th of December, 1683. He represented the County of Aberdeen for several years in Parliament. After the Revolution he was offered the dignity of a Lord of Session by King William, but

being a man of the highest sense of honor, he declined the office, —although he had been badly treated by James II.—because he deemed that it would be inconsistent with the oath of allegiance which he had taken to that monarch. Hence, he retired into private life and “died at a very advanced age in 1719.” *

He cultivated music and possessed a vast and curious library, and was the author of several learned treatises. Sir Alexander married Margaret, daughter and heiress of William Lauder, Esq., one of the Clerks of Session, and had a numerous family, of whom William succeeded him, George founded the Setons of Mounie, Alexander was physician to the forces under the Duke of Marlborough, Elizabeth married Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackness, Bart., Margaret married Sir John Lauder of Fountainhall, Bart., and Anne married William Dick, Esq., *of Grange*. The family of Lauder, *of that Ilk*, figures in Scottish history from an early period.

VI. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Second Baronet. He was M.P. for the County of Aberdeen from 1702 to 1706, and one of the Commissioners appointed to treat about the Union between England and Scotland. He was a learned man, and the author of several esteemed works of a political bearing. He married, in 1702, Catharine, daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, Bart., by whom he had, with other issue, three sons: Alexander, William, and Archibald, who succeeded to the baronetcy. Sir William Seton died in 1744, and was followed in the title by his eldest son.

VII. SIR ALEXANDER SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Third Baronet. He was an officer of the Guards in 1750. Died and was succeeded by his brother.

VIII. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Fourth Baronet. He also died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother.

IX. SIR ARCHIBALD SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Fifth Baronet.

* Hailes : *Senators of the College of Justice*, p. 406.

He was an officer of the Royal Navy, and on his decease without issue the title devolved on his nephew.

X. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Sixth Baronet. Married Margaret, eldest daughter of James Ligertwood, Esq., and left issue:

James, Major in the Ninety-second Highlanders; killed in the Peninsular War, 1814, leaving by his wife Frances, daughter of Captain George Coote (nephew of that eminent soldier Sir Eyre Coote, Commander-in-chief in India), with other issue, William-Coote, seventh baronet, and William, an officer in the military service of the H. E. I. C., who died in India unmarried. The Cootes are an ancient English family which settled in Ireland *temp.* James I. The Premier Baronetcy of Ireland was conferred upon them.

On the death of Sir William, in 1819, he was succeeded by his grandson.

XI. SIR WILLIAM-COOTE SETON¹ OF PITMEDDEN, Seventh Baronet. He was Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Aberdeen. Born December 19, 1818. Married, 26th November, 1834, Eliza-Henrietta, daughter of Henry Lumsden, Esq., of Cushney, County Aberdeen, a Director of the East India Company, and had, with other issue, James-Lumsden and William-Samuel, who succeeded as eighth and ninth baronet. Lumsden is an old family in Aberdeenshire, which is traced back to Lumsden *of that Ilk* in County Berwick, and figures in the middle of the fourteenth century.

Sir William died 30th December, 1880.

XII. SIR JAMES-LUMSDEN SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Eighth Baronet. Born 1st September, 1835, an officer in the Army. Served through the Indian Mutiny and in the Abyssinian campaign. Was a writer on military subjects. Married Elizabeth, daughter of George Castle, Esq., of Oxford, but died without issue on 28th September, 1884.

XIII. SIR WILLIAM-SAMUEL SETON OF PITMEDDEN, Ninth and present Baronet. Born 22d May, 1837. Entered the military service. Was present with the Fourth Rifles at the battle and siege of Kandahar in 1880. Colonel of the Bombay staff corps. Married, 15th March, 1876, Eva-Kate St. Leger, only daughter of Lieutenant-General Henry Hastings-Affleck Wood, C.B., and has issue.

SETON OF MOUNIE.

I. This is a branch of the Setons of Pitmedden, Bart. The first of Mounie was GEORGE SETON, second son of Sir Alexander Seton, first baronet of Pitmedden. He married, about 1740, Anne Leslie, and had, with other issue, William and Margaret. Mounie is in Aberdeenshire. It had a connection of some kind with the Setons as early as 1557.

II. WILLIAM SETON OF MOUNIE. Born about 1750. An officer in the Army. He paid much attention to agricultural improvements on his estate, and died unmarried in London in 1781.

III. MARGARET SETON, Heiress of MOUNIE. She was born 30th April, 1749, and married, 10th of July, 1768, James Anderson of Cobinshaw, LL.D., a gentleman of literary and scientific attainments. He assumed the surname of Seton. Mrs. Seton died 26th November, 1788, and was succeeded by her eldest son.

IV. ALEXANDER SETON OF MOUNIE. He married, in 1810, his cousin, Janet Ogilvy, lineal descendant of the fifth Lord Ogilvy *of Airlie*, by whom he had, with other issue, Alexander, David, Isabella (who corresponded with my aunt, Catharine Seton, of New York), and Jessy-Jane, a "dear childe," who died at Pisa, Italy, and was buried not far from my grandfather's tomb in the Protestant cemetery at Leghorn, with this modest inscription: "To the Memory of Jessy-

Jane, Daughter of Alexander Seton Esq. of Mounie in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, who died on the 19th February, 1831, aged 14."

I had the pleasure of meeting in 1896 the Rev. E. L. Gardner, then recently appointed chaplain "to the English factory" at Leghorn, as one would have said a hundred years ago, and I understood that it was his intention to write a history of this cemetery, the first of its kind, I believe, established in Italy. Non-Catholics dying in that country a cen-



tury or two ago, when not brought back to their native land, were almost always carried to Leghorn for interment; and I have an idea that, if the last Earl of Winton did die in Rome in 1749—where a thorough search has been made, yet no trace of his burial can be found—his body was brought to Leghorn and deposited there.

Mr. Seton was a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy-Lieutenant. He died at Leamington, England, whither he had gone for the waters, 16th April, 1850, in the eighty-first year of his age.

V. ALEXANDER SETON OF MOUNIE. Was born in 1815. At the time of his succession to the estate, was Major in the Seventy-fourth Highlanders, and in November, 1851, was Lieutenant-Colonel of that famous regiment. "Being in command of the troops on board H. M. S. 'Birkenhead' when that vessel was lost, near Point Danger, Cape of Good Hope, 26th February, 1852, he was drowned in the wreck, but not until, by his self-devoted firmness and promptitude, he had secured the safe removal of all the women and children in the boats." There is a memorial tablet under the great arcade of Chelsea (military) Hospital, put up at command of the Queen, to "record the heroic constancy and unbroken discipline" shown on this occasion by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who were lost, to the number of 357. Colonel Seton was unmarried.

VI. DAVID SETON, ESQ., OF MOUNIE. Born in 1817. At one time an officer in the Ninety-third Highlanders, and afterward of the Forty-ninth Regiment. An accomplished linguist and traveller, with a strong literary and antiquarian bent, he took deep interest in everything connected with the Seton family, whose characteristics he exhibited. He died in Edinburgh on March 14, 1894, and, never having married, was succeeded by his nephew.

VII. ALEXANDER-DAVID SETON, ESQ., (NOW) OF MOUNIE. Born 25th October, 1854. An officer in the Artillery. Married, 12th February, 1879, Emily Isabel, second daughter of Alfred Turner of Daysbrook, County Lancaster, England, and has sons and daughters.

SETON OF CARISTON.

The founder of this line was the Hon John Seton, born about 1532, of George, sixth Lord Seton, by his first wife, who was Elizabeth Hay, daughter of the third Lord Yester.

He married a well-dowered heiress, Isabel, daughter to David Balfour of Cariston, in the County of Fife. The Balfours of Cariston are stated to have sprung from a younger son of Balfour *of that Ilk*, before its heiress brought that ancient heritage to the Bethunes, afterward Betons. A Balfour of Cariston is found living in 1476, and is mentioned in the records of the Parliament of Scotland in 1495.

I. JOHN SETON OF CARISTON. By his lucky marriage he had two sons: George, his heir, and John.

Sir John Seton, Captain in the Scots Guards in France, married a daughter of the Count de Bourbon, and had, besides a daughter, who married Adinston *of that Ilk*, an ancient Baron in East Lothian, a son, also named John, and likewise an officer in the Scots Guards, who, marrying a French lady, settled in France in his manor house of Coulonniers, near Meaux, leaving children, of whom "Jean de Seton" and Henry de Seton; Catherine de Seton, wife of Claude de Bertin de Relincourt, Knight; Angélique de Seton, and four other daughters, "professed nuns." Mr. George Seton obtained from the records in the National Library at Paris a copy of his last will and testament, which is dated 15th May, 1661, and has reproduced it, in the original and with an English translation, in his *Family of Seton*, II., pp. 982-987.

II. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Was born about 1554, and succeeded his father before 20th July, 1573. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Ayton *of that Ilk*, County Fife, by whom he had, with other issue, George, his successor. Ayton of Ayton is an old family that goes back to the twelfth century.

III. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1585, or earlier; married Cecilia, eldest daughter of David Kynynmond *of that Ilk*, County Fife, by his wife, Marion Seton, of the family of Parbroath. He had, with other issue, George, his successor, and Isabella, who married her kinsman, Sir George

Seton of Parbroath. The family of Kynynmond is traced back beyond "Eliseus de Kynynmond, *Dominus ejusdem*" in 1395. A Matthew Kynynmond was Bishop of Aberdeen in 1172, and a John de Kynynmond, Bishop of Brechin in 1304.

IV. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. He succeeded his father before 28th June, 1637, and "was a man of large stature and fine accomplishments." He declined the honor of knighthood, and was on terms of special intimacy with his kinsman, the second Earl of Dunfermline. He was out against the Covenanters at the battle of Bothwell Bridge.

By his wife Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Seton of Olivestob, he had, besides other issue, Christopher, his heir, and Alexander, an officer in General Dalyell's troop of horse at the battle of Pentland Hills. Married a daughter of Lindsay of Pitscandly, County Forfar, and had one child, who died young. He is probably the Captain Seton at whose house, still standing in the village of Kennoway, Archbishop Sharpe passed the night on the day before he was murdered by religious fanatics on Magus Muir, near St. Andrew's. George Seton died in 1688, aged sixty-six.

V. CHRISTOPHER SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1645. Was Lieutenant in a troop of horse. Married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Patrick Lindsay of Woolmerston, County Fife (ancestor of the present Earl of Lindsay), by whom he had, besides one daughter, Catharine, married to John Lindsay of Kirkforthar, two sons:

George, his heir, and Christopher, who, marrying Elizabeth, daughter of John Adair, Geographer Royal for Scotland, left, with other issue, William-Carden, born 1775, Colonel in the Army and Companion of the Bath. Commanded the Eighty-eighth Regiment at Badajos and Salamanca in the Peninsular War. Died 24th March, 1842, leaving, with other issue, a son Miles-Charles, an officer in the Eighty-fifth Regiment. Married, in 1841, the Hon. Mary-Ursula,

eldest daughter of the second Viscount Sidmouth, by whom he had, with other children, Bertram, born 1845, married 1869, Isabella-Mary, granddaughter of Sir Lawrence Cotter, Bart., and has a son Malcolm, born 1872, who was educated at Oxford, and passed for the Indian Civil Service. I had the pleasure of meeting these Setons at Ilfracombe, in England, in 1896.

Christopher Seton of Cariston died in 1718, in his seventy-third year.

VI. *GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON.* Married, first, Margaret, eldest daughter of David Boswell of Balmuto, by whom he had one son: George, his heir. He married, secondly, in 1722, Margaret, daughter of James Law of Brunton, County Fife, by whom he had Christopher, "a rare genius" who loved travel and adventure, and died at sea off the coast of Guinea in 1744; and James, who, engaging in the rebellion of '45, was wounded at Culloden, taken prisoner, and came near having the honor of being hanged at Carlisle like a Jacobite and a gentleman, but was saved through the influence of the Earl of Crawford with a German prince who had brought 6,000 Hessians to Scotland in the interest of the House of Hanover.

James Seton subsequently went to Holland, and was present, as an officer in the Dutch service, at the memorable siege of Bergen-op-Zoom in 1747. He died—according to the usual longevity of the Setons—in his eighty-eighth year, on 2d February, 1817.

George Seton of Cariston died 9th June, 1760, in the seventy-second year of his age.

VII. *GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON.* Married his cousin, Jean Seton, and had, with other issue, George, his heir, and Christopher, born 1754, an officer in the Fifty-fourth Regiment in 1776, with which he served through the American War. He also served in Flanders. William Cobbett, the

malignant Radical, had been a Sergeant in the Fifty-fourth, and in 1792 spitefully accused Lieutenant Seton, Lieutenant Hall, and Captain Powell of certain regimental irregularities, for which they were tried by court-martial, and the charges declared to be totally unfounded.

George Seton died 2d November, 1762.

VIII. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1752. He was a poor manager, and was finally forced to part with his paternal estate, and sold Cariston about 1774. He was a Lieutenant in the Fiftieth Regiment and a Captain in the Seventy-eighth Highlanders, with which he served for a time in the East Indies; but falling ill, was obliged to return to Scotland and sell his commission. He died unmarried in 1797, when the representation of the family devolved first on his brother, Major Christopher Seton, and after his death on their sister Margaret, who married her kinsman, Henry Seton, and had a son George.

IX. GEORGE SETON. Born at Leven, 6th August, 1769, Commander in the Honorable East India Company's sea service. He was well educated, a skilful navigator, and an elegant draughtsman, whose adventurous spirit brought him to Amsterdam, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, India, Sumatra, Batavia, and China. He settled for some years at Penang. Afterward returned to Scotland and married, 12th of January, 1819, Margaret, daughter to James Hunter, Esq., of Seaside, County Perth, and died 21st June, 1815.*

Captain Seton left one son and two daughters.

X. GEORGE SETON, ESQ., Present Representative of Cariston. Born June 25, 1822, studied at Oxford, and took his degree; is a valued member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a member of the Royal Archers (Her

* I look back with inexpressible joy to the hospitable entertainment received forty years ago from this family and from others of the Seton kin, living near beautiful Perth.

Majesty's bodyguard beyond the Tweed), and a writer on several matters, one work from his pen being the best on the subject ever published—viz., *The Law and Practice of Heraldry in Scotland*. It is called an "admirable work" by no less an authority than the late Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster, in his own interesting *Reminiscences*.* Mr. Seton has travelled extensively, and in his own venerable figure exemplifies the proverbial tallness, dignified bearing, and longevity of the family. He married, 26th of September, 1849, Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of James Hunter, Esq., of Thurston, County Haddington, and by her, who died in 1883, had one son and three daughters.

GEORGE, who, after a good education, travelled abroad and resided for some time at Calcutta in India. Married, 2d November, 1895, Amy Geraldine, only daughter of the late Charles Moore, Esq., of Boston, U. S. A.

SETON OF PARBROATH.

The Setons of Parbroath are the earliest offshoot from the main trunk of our family tree. They are, therefore, the Senior cadets of the House of Winton, and are not least among the genealogical Juniors, although I have left them to the last.

Maitland rather quaintly heads his chapter on them in this manner: "*Of Ye First Cuming of Parbroath To The Setouns, And of The Successioun Yairof, as Follouis.*"

Sir Alexander Seton, who so valiantly defended Berwick Town against the English in the first half of the fourteenth century, had four lawful sons, two of whom, Thomas and William, suffered death by order of Edward III.; the third, called Alexander, succeeded his father; the fourth was named

* I have the honor to have received a copy of these *Reminiscences* from Sir Bernard's hands with this autograph inscription: "To Monsignor Seton, with the author's esteem and regard. Dublin Castle, 21 Sept. 1889."

John. Among other rewards that the Governor of Berwick received from his grateful king (David II.) was the gift of an heiress, to be bestowed on one of his sons. This lady was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Nicholas Ramsay of Parbroath, Knight, whom Alexander "gave in marriage to his son called John." Such a transaction looks singular and even outrageous to us, but it was quite natural in the Middle Ages, and was not productive of any great abuse.*

I. SIR JOHN SETON, First Baron of Parbroath. Parbroath is usually pronounced in Scotland Petbroath, and on Ainslie's Map of Fife, published in 1774, it is given as *Pitbroath*, which would seem to mean Broadland (see note ahead under Pitcairn), a term well applied to this portion of land, which forms a wide swale. John, fourth and youngest, but second surviving son of Alexander Seton of Seton, married, as said, some time after 1333, Elizabeth Ramsay, Heiress of Parbroath. In the fourteenth century there were several cadets of the House of Dalhousie settled in Fifeshire. The Ramsays are a renowned Scotch family, and "the first person of distinction who bore the name in Scotland was the Sir William Ramsay whose noble and warlike character is eulogized by Fordun. He was the friend of Robert Bruce, by whose side he fought throughout the War of Independence, and was one of the nobles who subscribed the celebrated Memorial to the Pope, in 1320, vindicating the rights and liberties of their country."† The head of the family is the Earl of Dalhousie (creation 1633).

Sir John lived very happily with his wife, by whom, as a

* Among the casualties of superiority—as they were termed in the Scotch feudal law—was the right of disposing in marriage of the only daughter of a tenant *in capite*, who, at her father's death, became a ward of the king; hence an heiress was a positive prize to the feudal superior. He had the "casualty" of her marriage when he gave his consent to it, and to marry her without the royal assent was a much more serious thing than to elope, in this age, with a ward in Chancery.

† Taylor: *Great Historic Families*, I., 309.

woman could not perform a knight's service, he became, *jure uxoris*, one of the Lesser (sometimes called Minor) Barons of Scotland.

Baronies were held directly of the king, and their attendant rights and privileges included *sac* and *soc*, *tol* and *tehm*, *infangthef*, and *pit* and *gallows*. I have explained the meaning of these words in an early note, but Warden's *Angus, or Forfarshire*, II., 283, does so, perhaps, more clearly, saying: "These feudal terms signify the right of holding courts, deciding pleas, imposing fines, taking tolls upon the sale of goods, and punishing equally the thief caught with the stolen property, or the homicide taken 'red hand' within the boundary of the manor."

II. ALEXANDER SETON, Second Baron of Parbroath. He succeeded his father, Sir John, and married Mary Vipont, who belonged to a very ancient and distinguished Anglo-Norman family—called in charters *de Veteri Ponte*—now extinct. They were brave and warlike. The Norman name was *Vieux-Pont*, a great baronial name, taken from Vieux Pont-en-Auge, near Caen. William fought at Hastings, and rose to importance in England, holding at an early period the extensive Barony of Westmoreland, which eventually passed to the Cliffords through the marriage of Roger de Clifford with Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of Robert de Vipont, lord and hereditary sheriff of that extensive county. A branch of the family was established in Scotland at an early date, the first of the family to hold lands beyond the Tweed being *William de Veteriponte*, who flourished in the middle of the twelfth century, and had the greatest part of the Manor of Langton, in Berwickshire.

About the period of this matrimonial alliance, Alan de Vipont, a Scottish patriot, held Lochleven Castle for King David Bruce.* Sir Walter Scott has made a member of the

* *History of Lochleven Castle*, p. 23, by Robert Burns-Begg.

family the hero of one of his matchless tales, and James Grant has made Roland Vipont the last of his noble race in the story of *Jane Seton*.

III. SIR GILBERT SETON, Third Baron of Parbroath. He succeeded to Sir Alexander, his father. Married Marion, daughter of Pitcairn *of that Ilk*.

Pitcairn is an old Fifeshire family; but it never rose to territorial importance. A *Johannes de Pitcairn* figures as early as 1250. The name is derived, perhaps, from those singular Druidical stones which are often the companions of the chambered Cairns, and of the underground edifices called Picts' Houses, for which, see Burton, *History of Scotland*, I., pp. 99 and 137. The old form of *Pit*, or *Pitten*, means a portion of land or a small holding, and is sometimes connected with Gaelic specific terms, so that Pitcairn might signify rather the Land of the Cairn than the Picts' Cairn.* There have been men of this name in science, literature, and civil employment. The "great man" of the family is Robert Pitcairn, Commendator of Dunfermline, son of David Pitcairn *of that Ilk*. He was born about 1530, bred to the Church, and preferred to the rich *commendam* of Dunfermline; but he remained a layman, and married. Appointed an ordinary Lord of Sessions on June 23, 1568, he frequently visited England on the affairs of his party. Died on October 18, 1584, and was buried at Dunfermline, where a monument bearing a Latin inscription was erected to his memory.

Others of the family were authors of works esteemed in their day, and Dr. Archibald Pitcairn, in 1700, was "one of the most conspicuous persons of his time in Scotland—one of the few, moreover, known out of his own country, or destined to be remembered in a future age."† Major (John) Pitcairn was the only British officer always accounted fair in his deal-

* Skene : *Four Ancient Books of Wales*, I., 157.

† Chambers : *Domestic Annals*, III., 223.

ings with the people of Boston in their altercations with the king's troops, yet he bore the stigma of Lexington, and was killed at Bunker Hill. The name is, perhaps, now best remembered in connection with that romantic island in the Pacific Ocean discovered by Carteret in 1767 and named for one of his officers, and since associated with the mutineers of the "Bounty."

Sir Gilbert Seton had five sons by his wife, Marion Pitcairn: 1. Sir Alexander, of whom hereafter. 2. William, whose son, also called William, married Catharine Butler, Heiress of Rungavie, and gave rise to the short-lived Setons *of Rungavie*, of whom William was killed at the battle of Pinkie in September, 1547, leaving by Catharine Auchmuty, his wife, a son and heir named David. 3. John, of whom also hereafter. 4. Gilbert, "a Master clerk," a priest and scholar, who died in Rome. 5. David, a priest. This last one, called "Master David," was a strong character. He was Rector of Fettercairn and Balhelny, an important and lucrative position in the Church at that time. He studied at the University of Paris, where he took his degree of Doctor of the Civil and Canon Law, which was an academic honor infinitely rarer then than now, and in Scotland particularly. His name turns up frequently in the public records; for instance, as a witness to an instrument of resignation, on April 14, 1497, and again to a charter of confirmation to the Abbey of Lindores given at Perth on November 9, 1500.* He was a frank, energetic man, very large and tall, and much esteemed by King James III. He lived to be over eighty. Sir Richard Maitland gives a graphic account of the old priest's wit, pugnacity, and devotion to his family chief, for whom he was one of the legal advisers, on a certain occasion when King James IV. came to the Council House at Edinburgh, to hear a case tried against the then Lord Seton, in which he was per-

* Laing: *Lindores Abbey and the Burgh of Newburgh*, p. 486.

sonally interested. The royal advocates—Richard Lawson, Justice Clerk, and his assistant, James Henryson (Henderson)—emboldened by the king's presence, assumed an insolent tone and laid down the law with unbearable presumption. Then the Reverend Doctor stood up and said in a loud voice, playing on his opponent's vulgar name: "*Howbeit they call you Law-s-son, you are not Law-s-father, to make laws at your pleasure.*" Then turning to the King, he said: "Sir, when our ancestors got that land from your most noble predecessors for their true service—sometimes giving the blood of their body and sometimes their lives in defence of this realm; at that time there was neither Lawson nor Henryson who would find ways to disinherit the Barons of Scotland." The King's Grace then answered Master David saying: "How now, you forget yourself; you remember not where you are; you are more like a champion than an advocate; it looks as though you would fight for the matter." Then up spoke Master David and said: "Sir, and it might stand with your Grace's pleasure, I pray God if it come to that, to see if both Lawson and Henryson dare fight with me, in that quarrel, old as I am": (for he was then more than sixty). The King, who was a humane prince, considering the man's age and his great affection for his Chief, smiled and laughed a little and said no more. With all his bluffness, David was a whole-souled priest, and made himself a general favorite, as we can well imagine from what Sir Richard Maitland says of him: "He was a singularly honest man, and married all his eldest brother's daughters, after his decease, on landed men and paid their doweries, and got ladies of heritage for his brother's sons." * Bless his memory.

IV. SIR ALEXANDER SETON, Fourth Baron of Parbroath. Sir Alexander succeeded his father. He was troubled during several years—1496 to 1503—about a land dispute with

* *Historie*, p. 25.

Michael Balfour of Burleigh. Lord Glamys, Justiciar of Scotland, chose him for one of his seven counsellors in the controversy between the Abbey of Lindores and the Burgesses of Newburgh, which was decided and recorded in a document at Lindores, on January 15, 1493, of which David Seton, Rector of Fettercairn, was one of the witnesses.

He married Helen, daughter of a great Highland chief—Sir William Murray of Tullibardine—and had a son Alexander, who died before his father, and other sons and daughters, whose names are not recorded, but who were all well settled in life by their provident uncle, Master David Seton. The Parbroaths must have been people of superior substance and consideration at this time, to have contracted so great an alliance. Dame Helen's mother was Margaret, daughter to Sir John Stewart, son of the Black Knight of Lorn, who was created Earl of Athole in 1457. The Murrays were a very ancient and very eminent family. Their founder settled in Scotland in the reign of David I., and got extensive possessions in Moray, from which he took the name *De Moravia*, *Moray*, *Murray*. Sir William de Moravia acquired the lands of Tullibardine with his wife Adda, daughter to Malise, Seneschal of Strathern, as appears by charters of A.D. 1282 and 1284. His descendant is the Duke of Athole, who has more titles than any other nobleman in Great Britain, besides inheriting half a dozen co-heirships to old English baronies. His eldest son bears the courtesy title of Marquess of Tullibardine.

Younger branches of the family received the peerages of Dunmore, Mansfield, and Elibank, and the baronetcies of Blackbarony, Clermont, and Ochertyre.

V. ALEXANDER SETON, Younger, of Parbroath. Not much is known of him except that he was alive on the 10th of March, 1512, but must have died soon after, and only a little before his father. He also made a powerful alliance,

marrying Catharine, daughter of Patrick, fourth Lord Lindsay of the Byres, and Isabella, daughter to Pitcairn *of that Ilk*, his wife, by whom he left three sons: John, Andrew, and David, and a daughter named Janet.

There were several considerable families of Lindsay in England in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the surname being first assumed by the proprietor of the lands or manor of Lindsay, County Essex, who was probably of Norman origin. One of the knights of this family, following so many other successful adventurers, migrated farther north, and founded the illustrious House of Lindsay in Scotland. The head of the family is Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, County Fife. The Lords Lindsay of the Byres (now represented by the Earl of Lindsay) spring from Sir William Lindsay, third son of Sir David Lindsay of Crawford, who obtained from King David II. the Barony of Byres in East Lothian.

VI. JOHN SETON, Fifth Baron of Parbroath. John succeeded his grandfather, and on July 28, 1512, obtained a very honorable and advantageous renewal charter of the lands and Barony of Parbroath from King James IV. He lived to enjoy his estate only a few months, dying unmarried, on Flodden Field, beside his chief, the fifth Lord Seton, on September 9, 1513. Tytler the historian says (V., 67) of this tremendous day:

“The names of the gentry who fell are too numerous for recapitulation, since there were few families of note in Scotland which did not lose one relative or another, whilst some houses had to weep the death of all.”

I spent a day about Flodden in August, 1889; and nothing can be conceived more affecting to an American of Scottish ancestry than to wander among the ruins of Norham Castle, walk over the Bridge of Twizel, drink of Sybil Grey's fountain, and view the Trysting Stone near which the king made a last stand with the remnants of his dismounted chivalry:

No one failed him ! He is keeping
Royal State and semblance still ;
Knight and Noble lie around him,
Cold on Flodden's fatal hill.

—AYTOUN.

VII. *ANDREW SETON*, Sixth Baron of Parbroath. Andrew Seton succeeded his elder brother, killed at Flodden.

He figured with his brother David in the Privy Seal Register on 15th December, 1526, and again on 10th March, 1529-1530, and upward of twenty years later (25th February, 1552-1553) he appears in the Register of Acts and Decrees, always about some dispute of property or trouble between political parties.

Andrew Seton married a daughter, whose name, unfortunately, is not stated, of Balfour, Laird of Burleigh, now represented in the Peerage by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. The Barony of Balfour, in Fife, gave name to an ancient family long heritable proprietors of the place. The lands of Burleigh were acquired by Sir John Balfour of Balgarvie, Kt., and erected for him into a free barony, *temp.* James II., in 1445-1446. Sir Michael Balfour of Burleigh, an eminent diplomat, was created Lord Balfour of Burleigh on 7th August, 1606. His descendant, Robert, Master of Burleigh, was attainted for his part in the Rebellion of 1715, and died *s. p.* in 1757; but the attainder was reversed by act of Parliament in 1869, and the title awarded to the great-grandson of his sister Mary, who married General Alexander Bruce of Kennet.

By this marriage Andrew Seton had a son Gilbert, who succeeded him, and two daughters, Margaret and Christian. Margaret married Thomas Lumsden of Airdrie about January, 1549.

The estate of Airdrie was purchased in 1409 by John Lummysden of Glengyruoch (Gleghorn), who in 1450 assumed the designation of "Airdrie." It was alienated

from the family in 1607. The Lumsdens *of that Ilk* first settled in Berwickshire; and Thomas de Lumsden, a cadet of the family, moved into Fife previous to 1353, having received grants of land there from Earl Duncan.

Christian married David Pitcairn, son and heir of Pitcairn of Forthir, and was his widow before 1st February, 1553–1554, as established by an entry in the Register of Acts and Decrees.

Andrew Seton was engaged in the difficult and gallant capture of Broughty Castle from the English on the 23d June, 1549.

VIII. GILBERT SETON, Younger, of Parbroath. Gilbert Seton died before his father, being killed at the disastrous battle of Pinkie in 1547. He married Helen Leslie, daughter to the fourth Earl of Rothes, by whom he left a son David and two daughters, Marion and Janet.

The Leslies were a very ancient and noble family, which deduces its descent from Bartholomew De Leslyn, who settled in Aberdeenshire *temp.* William I. The sixth in succession from the Founder obtained the Barony of Rothes by marriage with Mary, daughter and co-heir of Sir Alexander Abernethy of Abernethy. His descendant, George Leslie, was created before March 20, 1457, Earl of Rothes. Gilbert Seton's daughter Marion married David Kynnynmond *of that Ilk* and Craighall, County Fife; and their oldest daughter, Cecilia, married, in 1620, George Seton, third of Cariston. Of his other daughter, Janet, it is known that there was a contract of marriage dated April 30, 1567, with James Hamilton of Sammuellston, who was descended from James Hamilton, first Earl of Arran.

IX. SIR DAVID SETON, Seventh Baron of Parbroath. David was served heir to his grandfather, Andrew Seton, in 1563. He was at one period in danger of his life or liberty, and, for a time at least, his estate was escheated to the

crown; but he received a pardon, and was restored on April 2, 1573.

His offence consisted in assisting and participating with Châtellerault, Huntly, Kirkcaldy of Grange, and others in "fortifying and detaining the castle and burgh of Edinburgh against the King and his Regent."

At Holyrood House, on March 16, 1587-1588, a letter was granted, with consent of Sir John Seton of Barnes, Keeper of the Rolls, to David Seton of Parbroath, appointing him Ranger of the East and West Lomonds of Falkland. These are two beautiful conical hills, appertaining then to the royal domain in Fifeshire. They both rise but little less than two thousand feet, and are visible at a considerable distance. By what influence or for what service he received this profitable position is not known; but he must have been a man of parts and of great integrity, for he filled the important office of Comptroller of the Scottish Revenue from 1589 to 1595. In the Manuscript Department of the British Museum I was shown fifteen Seton headings in the index to letters and papers, and the originals were put in my hands.*

I have examined there a curious "Audit of Accounts of Sir John Maitland of Thirlestane, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, of moneys expended in 1589, 1590, on the visit of James VI. to Norway and Denmark, on the occasion of his marriage, dated in Mar. 1593 (4); with signatures." I saw the autograph "Parbrothe Controller" [*sic*] five times. In another document the Comptroller signs himself simply "Parbroth," because Lairds, as the lesser barons were denominated—the greater ones being Lords—belonging as they did to the higher gentry, and possessing a tract of land with tower, castle, or mansion on it, called a Lairdship and held *in capite* of the Crown, were frequently known not by their family

* The affability of British officials is proverbial, and they always seem to redouble their pains to oblige Americans.

names, but by that of their estates—a style, now at least, peculiar to Scotland and derived originally from France. Peers always sign by their titles. But all peerages are founded on a barony; hence, even in modern times no one is created a peer, no matter by what higher title, without an inferior one of baron being annexed to it—and all baronies were originally the estate of the peer.

Such things as abstract baronies—making a man baron of a place where he does not hold an acre of land—are modern inventions.

Sir David is mentioned for the last time (Register of Acts and Decrees) on 7th February, 1592–1593. He died on the 24th November, 1601. His son Robert was “Executor-dative Surrogate” of his will. He was the most distinguished man of the Setons of Parbroath, and raised his family to a high degree of prosperity, from which it almost immediately and unaccountably fell.

Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet* says of him: “David Seton of Parbroath, was comptroller in Queen Mary’s time, but his son disposed the whole lands, and they are now in the possession of the Earl of Crawford; so that the memory of that family is extinguished, albeit, it was very numerous, and brave men descended thereof.”

He was Comptroller in King James’s time, but seems to have been a faithful servant of that monarch’s mother. The most precious heirloom in the family which represents Parbroath is a small portrait of Mary Stuart, of which my friend Mr. Laurence Hutton writes:

“An interesting miniature of the Scottish Queen is now in America. As it has never been engraved or publicly exhibited it is little known to collectors. It represents her at half length. The dress is black, trimmed around the neck, arms and upon the bosom with eider-down. Between the large ruff of the down about her neck and the neck itself, is a fine, upright collar of stiff lace. On the head and falling back over the neck is a black

* *Staggering State of Scottish Statesmen*: Comptrollers, 4.

velvet coif. The hair is what is called 'Titian gold.' The background of the picture is dark blue, and contains the legend 'Maria . Regina . Scotorum.' In the case of polished wood which holds it is a gold plate with the following inscription : ' This original portrait of Queen Mary Stuart is an heirloom in the family of the Setons of Parbroath—now of New York—into whose possession it came through their ancestor, David Seton of Parbroath, who was Comptroller of the Scottish Revenue from 1589 to 1595, and a loyal adherent of his unfortunate Sovereign. It was brought to America in 1763 by William Seton, Esquire, representative of the Parbroath branch of the ancient and illustrious family of the forfeited Earls of Winton.' There is a tradition that this picture was the gift of the Queen to her faithful servant, David Seton, who, although a member of the Kirk of Scotland, was never counted among her personal foes. A copy of it was presented by the late William Seton in 1855 to Prince Labanoff,* who believed it to be from life, and surmised that it was taken during her captivity. The face is beautiful but no longer young." †

Sir David Seton of Parbroath married Mary, daughter of Patrick, sixth Lord Gray of Broxmouth, by his wife Mary, daughter to Robert Stewart, Earl of Orkney. The family of Gray was ancient, and has played a part at different periods of Scottish history. The first to settle in Scotland, in the time of William the Lion, was a younger son of Gray of Chillingham, a Norman family established in the North of England. A priest of the name, (Sir) Thomas Gray, is intimately connected with the patriot Wallace as companion, friend, and biographer. Sir Andrew Gray had charters of Broxmouth from King Robert Bruce, early in the fourteenth century. His descendant, Andrew Gray, was raised to the peerage in 1444. The title became merged in 1878 in that of Moray, by the marriage in 1763 of Jane, daughter of the eleventh Lord Gray, with Francis, ninth Earl of Moray. By this marriage Sir David Seton had six sons and three daughters :

1. George, his successor.

* Prince Alexander Labanoff de Rostoff was devoted to the memory of Queen Mary Stuart. He published in 1844 a very valuable work in eight volumes : *Lettres, Instructions et Mémoires de Marie Stuart Reine d'Écosse*, a copy of which he gave to my father.

† Essay on " The Portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots."

2. Andrew, witness to a royal charter dated at Edinburgh, 1598.

3. Robert, witness to a charter granted by his father, and "dated at Parbroithe, 9th May 1601."

4. William, mentioned in a charter "confirmed at Holyrood house, 2d December 1602."

5. David, mentioned in the Privy Seal Register in 1581. He possessed the lands of Kinglass in November, 1633; married Jane Kinninmonth, and had two children, David and Jean. He was called Captain David Seton, and is last heard of in 1646.

6. John, went from London to Virginia on August 7, 1635. Probably died without issue or moved to some other part of the world, for he cannot be traced in the Colonies.

1. Margaret, married Sir John Scrymgeour of Dudhope, who was created a Viscount in 1641. Their grandson became Earl of Dundee. Sir John Scrymgeour was made Hereditary Standard Bearer of Scotland by Charles I., an honor now held by the descendant of this marriage, Scrymgeour-Wedderburn of Wedderburn and Birkhill. Of the three daughters of Sir John Scrymgeour and Margaret Seton of Parbroath—

A. Magdalen, the eldest, married Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. Their son refused the Earldom of Aberdeen, offered by King Charles II.

B. Jean, married Sir Thomas Thompson of *Duddingston*, who received a baronetcy (now extinct) in 1636.

C. Mary, married Sir James Haliburton.

2. Mary, married David Skene of Potterton, now represented by Skene of *Rubislaw*. The family of Skene is one of antiquity in Aberdeenshire, where it always maintained the rank of free barons, and takes its name from the castle of Skene, which they owned in the thirteenth century. The

name itself of *Skene* means a kind of short dagger, in use among the Highlanders of Scotland.

3. Elizabeth, mentioned in a charter by which her father provides for her support.

X. SIR GEORGE SETON, Eighth and Last Baron of Parbroath. His seal, from the Glammis Charters of the year 1601, is given by Mr. Laing in his *Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals*, and will be referred to in the chapter on the Heraldry of the Setons. Seven years later he occupied premises in the Rectory of Dysart, a parish in Fifeshire, on the Firth of Forth, whence it may be inferred, not that he had already sold Parbroath, but that he could not keep it up. Yet by what disaster or on what occasion he fell from his comparatively high estate is absolutely unknown. The property was extensive, and some idea of its value can be got from a charter dated at Parbroath, the 9th of May, 1601, and confirmed by the king at Edinburgh on 26th day of June, same year, in which "the lands and Barony of Parbroath" are described as consisting of the "manor and mains of Parbroath, lands of Landisfern, with the mill, annualment of £6 from the lands of Ramsay-Forthir; lands of Urquharts, namely Easter, Middle and Loppie Urquharts; lands of Kingask, with the manor; lands of Lillok, in the shire of Fife; lands of Haystoun and Scroggarfield, in the shire of Forfar; with castles, manors, parks, forests, fishing, etc., the teinds and advocacy of the rectorage and vicarage of the parish church of Creich, in Fife, united to the said barony."

George Seton married twice. His first wife was Jean Sinclair, daughter of Henry, third Lord Sinclair, by whom he had issue; but nothing special is known of the children, who were living with their mother at Dysart in 1609. They must have died young. His second wife was Isabella, daughter of George Seton of Cariston, great-grandson of the sixth Lord Seton, by whom he had two sons: James, who died in

Spain, unmarried, and Robert, who is last heard of near Hawick in Roxburghshire, where he married the daughter of a gentleman of the neighborhood—her name unknown—and had a son called James, of whom hereafter.

The Barony of Parbroath had been in the family for three hundred years, but the estate was sold to the Lindsays before 1633, because in that year one of them was created Earl of Lindsay and Lord Parbroath. It now belongs to the Hopes. It was situated on the north side of the County of Fife, and in the Parish of Creich. Sir Robert Sibbald refers, in his *History of Fife and Kinross*, published in 1710, to the “ruins of the house of Parbroath, the dwelling of a gentleman of the name of Seton, descended from the brave governor of Berwick”; and the following reference to the ancient mansion is found in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland* (IX., 645):

“Of this house or castle, which belonged to the family of Seton, nothing now remains to mark the site save part of an arch, surrounded by a few old trees, which has been carefully preserved by desire of the late Earl of Hopetoun. It stands near to the place where the road between the Forth and Tay ferries crosses the road from Cupar to Newburgh. The house is said to have been surrounded by a moat, over which there was a drawbridge, and the park in which they were situated is still called the Castlefield. There is a tradition that one of the late farm-buildings at Parbroath, which was long used as a barn, had at one time been a chapel, and that at it, and the Church of Creich, divine service was performed on alternate Sabbaths. In confirmation of a chapel having been here, it may be stated that, a few years ago, when the foundation of a wall was dug up close by the site of the old barn, some graves were discovered, which probably formed part of the burying-ground connected with the chapel.”

The situation of Parbroath, four miles and a half from Cupar, is in a tract of valley land enclosed by high and beautifully rounded hills. The present road runs right through this valley and the Parbroath farm of four hundred and twenty acres, but the old one ran across the hills behind it. The fragment of an arch now stands in a large cultivated field, a square of about fourteen acres. A short distance beyond it is



CLUMP OF TREES AND BROKEN ARCH AT PARROATH.

a deserted dovecote, and a little farther on is a picturesque knoll surrounded by a clump of trees. These large, square, and towerlike Dovecotes, or *Dookits*, as they are locally called, with their slanting roofs and crow-step gables, are a peculiarity of Scottish Lairdships, and particularly common in Fifeshire. I imagine that they are an importation from France originally, where the *Droit du Colombier*, especially that kind, as at



OLD ABANDONED "DOOKIT" AT PARBROATH.

Parbroath, which Taine (*Ancien Régime*) calls "grand Colom-bier à pied," was a feudal right of the baron. No one, however, could raise a dookit by Scotch law, unless he cultivated a considerable amount of land around it. Perhaps it was one of these trees still remaining that furnished the plain round snuffbox, lead-lined, and having a slender silver rim running around the lower edge of the cover, which belonged to John Seton, father of William Seton of New York, and which has

an inscription on the inside, saying that it "is made out of a piece of wood cut from a favorite tree that stood near the ancient castellated mansion of the Setons of Parbroath." On my visit to this place I saw some bits of old wall and a stone-faced dyke; and behind the farm-house, built in 1806, some parts of an old building once a chapel, but now used as a barn. A sun-dial and a mitred figure—the bust only—are set on the gable end near a chimney. They were dug up here some years ago. An eminence on the other side of the lane leading from the public road to the farm-house is still called Hawk Hill, reminding the visitor that the sport of hawking or falconry was one of the most fascinating of feudal pastimes among the higher classes. Many agates which take a fine polish strew the ground, one of which—larger than the rest—the obliging tenant-farmer, Mr. Russell, picked up and gave me. I had it polished, mounted, and inscribed on my return to New York. At different times (besides the graves near the chapel mentioned in the extract from the *New Statistical Account*), cists, urns, and calcined bones—some of them having been enclosed in thin cairns or tumuli—have been dug up at Parbroath, and would seem to indicate that there was an early Pictish settlement there. The word "Creich," which gave its name to the parish, comes from the Gaelic *Craigich*, meaning rocky or craggy ground, a description applicable to some parts of Parbroath. The present farm is only a small portion of the original estate.

SETON OF LATHRISK.

This was an offshoot of Parbroath. JOHN, third son of Sir Gilbert Seton, third Baron of Parbroath, and of Marion Pitcairn, his wife, married Janet, daughter and heiress to Lathrisk *of that Ilk*, in the County of Fife, and was ancestor of the Setons of Lathrisk and Balbirnie. About the year 1180

there is mention "of the church of Losresch in Fife," which appears to be the modern Lathrisk. This is the earliest notice of the *place*. As a family name—taken by some adventurous knight who received land there—it first appears in Ragman Rolls, where we find William of Latheresk (Lathrisk) swearing fealty to Edward I. in the Parliament held by him at Berwick in 1296. Sir Robert Sibbald, the historian of Fife, writes of "Lathrisk, an old house with gardens and enclosures, the seat of Mr. Patrick Seton, a cadet of the Earls of Winton: a predecessor of his got these lands by marrying the heiress of the same name with the lands." *Lathrisk* was pronounced *Larisse*.

John Seton of Lathrisk first appears in a charter given to him on 10th of August, 1511, of certain lands in the Barony of Lathrisk and Sheriffdom of Fife.

II. JOHN SETON OF LATHRISK. In the lifetime of his parents (John Seton and Janet Lathrisk) he had a charter from King James IV., dated at Edinburgh, 11th April, 1495, of the lands of Wester Lathrisk. He married Janet Auchmuty. She belonged to an old Fifeshire family, Auchmuties *of that Ilk* being traced back to "Florentine Auchmuty *de eodem*, who flourished in 1334." By her he had John, his successor. Christopher, a priest and vicar of Strathmiglo in 1551. Elizabeth, married before 1564 to James Spens of Lathallan, of an ancient family immortalized in the grand old ballad of "Sir Patrick Spens" and a terrible shipwreck, which ends with the lines:

"Half over, half over to Aberdour,
"Tis fifty fathoms deep,
And there lies good Sir Patrick Spens,
With the Scots Lords at his feet!"

William Spens of Lathallan married, before 1385, Isabel, daughter and heiress of Duncan Campbell of Glendouglas. Several of the family served in the Scots Guards in France.

I believe that the last of the family was a gallant young officer killed a few years ago at Cabul during the campaign of Lord Roberts in Afghanistan.

Janet, married to Bernard Oliphant of the family of Sir William Oliphant of Aberdalgie, who so gallantly defended Stirling Castle against King Edward I. in 1304. His grandson was created Lord Oliphant before 1456. The peerage is dormant or extinct since 1751. The family is now represented by Oliphant *of Gask*.

Margaret, married to Robert Hunter of Newton Rires, son of Patrick Hunter of Newton Rires, and of Dorothy Forbes, whose father, John Forbes, married Barbara Sandiland of St. Monans.

III. JOHN SETON OF LATHRISK. We know little of him, except that he married Alice Bonar. The Bonars *of Rossie*, in Fife, are mentioned as landowners in the middle of the fifteenth century. He had several sons, and among them George, James, and Patrick. Jane, the daughter of James Seton, married Robert Echlin, of the Echlins of Pitaddro, who in 1601 was Minister of Inverkeithing in Fife, but in 1613 became Bishop of Down and Connor in Ireland. Their great-grandson, Sir Henry Echlin, was created a baronet in 1721.

Captain Patrick Seton, the fifth and youngest son, is a picturesque figure. He had served in the famous corps of Scots men-at-arms, or "Mounted Scots Guard," which became later (under Louis XIV.) the *Gens d'Armes Écossais* and the first cavalry regiment in France after that of the Royal Household, called *Maison du Roi*. Patrick remained all his life a bachelor, but not because he was too poor to marry, judging from his will. He had probably been crossed in love early in life. He died at Elgin, in the house of his distant kinsman, Alexander Seton, Lord Fyvie, on 16th February, 1600, leaving by will, dated two days previously, 900 merks

and his saddle-horse to John Seton, his nephew and heir-of-line; and 200 merks, "together with his bracelets of gold," a silver salt-cellar, two spoons, and a cup to his niece, Janet Duddingstoun, Lady Lathallan; to Isabel Swinton, his god-child, lawful daughter to Mark Swinton, 300 merks; to David Seton, his nephew in France, 500 merks; to Thomas and Henry Oliphant his nephews, to George Seton his nephew, to Janet Seton his niece, sister to Margaret Seton, spouse to Mark Swinton, various legacies; to Patrick Spens, his godson, his draught-horse, with 100 merks of silver. The original is a study in English, showing us how, in our language, things left in a rude or uncultivated state were called by Saxon terms, but when made fit for the use of gentle-folks were called by Norman-French names; thus, in the original:

"I leif to Patrick Spens, my God sone, my *hors*. . . .
 "ITEM, I lief my *montur* . . . to John Seytoun my nevoy and air," etc. In both cases a *horse* is meant; only Patrick Spens got a common horse and John Seton a trained horse: called a "*Monture*" because it can be mounted.—FRANCISQUE MICHEL: *Civilliz. in Scot*—"The Horse."

Scott draws attention to this curiosity of the language—these studies in English—in the first chapter of *Ivanhoe*.

IV. GEORGE SETON, Younger, OF LATHRISK. He was alive in 1575, but died before his father. It is not known whom he married. He had a son John, who succeeded his grandfather.

After this, notices of the Lathrisk family become fewer and fainter.

Alexander Seton of Lathrisk assisted at the public funeral of the Earl of Dunfermline in 1622, and was soon afterward captain of a body of 500 soldiers raised by him for the German wars—then raging—in which he was killed.

On the 19th August, 1642, John Seton of Lathrisk is mentioned in a charter of Charles I.

John Seton of Balfour and Catharine Halyburton of Pitcur, his spouse, had a daughter “ Agnes, who married, in 1657, Seton of Lathrisk.”

The last Laird of Lathrisk was John Seton, and about 1720 the property passed away from the family, which then sank into obscurity.

THE SETONS OF CLATTO.

There was a disreputable family of Setons who lived some four hundred years ago on Clatto Hill in Fifeshire. Their crimes brought them finally to a tragic and sudden end. It is only too probable that they were a branch of Parbroath. It was a lawless age, and it is a long time ago. The story is told by the Rev. Peter Barclay in the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, I., 381, as follows:

“ The lands of Clatto, which constitute the east end of the parish of Kettle, and through which lay the old road from Cupar to Kinghorn, belonged to a family of Setons who are celebrated in tradition for the most cruel robberies and murders. The grounds about Clatto Den are still desert. In the face of the brae, which forms one side of the den, is a cave that is said to communicate with the old castle or tower of Clatto, a furlong distant, the remains of which are still visible. The same cave is said to have had another opening to the road, at which the assailant rushed out on the heedless passengers, and dragged them into the cavern, whence there was no return. All appearance of a cave is now obliterated by the breaking down of the banks. A similar cavern was found not many years ago at Craighall in Ceres parish. Of these Setons many stories, replete with the superstitions of preceding ages, are still current among the country people. One may suffice. One of the Scottish kings, said to be James IV., passing that way alone, as was common in those days, was attacked by a son of Seton's. The king having a hanger concealed under his garment, drew it, and with a blow cut off the right hand that seized his horse's bridle. This hand he took up, and rode off. Next day, attended by a proper retinue, he visited the Castle of Clatto, wishing to see Seton and his sons, who were noted as hardy, enterprising men, fited to shine in a more public station. The old man conducted his family into the king's presence. One son alone was absent. It was said that he had been hurt by an accident, and was confined to bed. The king insisted on seeing him, and desired to feel his pulse. The young man held out his left hand. The king would feel the

other also. After many ineffectual excuses, he was obliged to confess that he had lost his right hand. The king told him that he had a hand in his pocket, which was at his service if it would fit him. Upon this they were all seized and executed."

After the ruin and extirpation of these unworthy Setons, their property, which was confiscated, passed by purchase to the family of Learmonth. David, father of Sir James Learmonth, was Laird of Clatto in 1520.

SETON-KARR OF KIPPILAW.

These Setons are sprung paternally from Daniel Seton of Powderhall, near Edinburgh, whose great-grandfather, David Seton, was admitted a burgess of Burntisland, Fifeshire, on February 17, 1647, and who might be conjectured from certain heraldic coincidences to have belonged to the Parbroath branch. They are likewise descended from the ancient family of Kerr—pronounced (as now written by this branch) Karr—and of that particular line called Kerr of Zair, or Yair. They bury in Melrose Abbey, and on the north wall of the nave, just beyond the carved doorway that leads from the cloisters, I saw an heroic inscription referring to them, which Washington Irving so justly admired:

"Heir lyis the race of ye hous of Zair."

On one of the tombs we read this inscription:

"Here lyes leutenant collonel Andrew Ker of Kipplaw, who was born at melros the 23 february 1620 years and died at Kippelaw, upon the 3 february 1697, in the 77 year of his age."

This colonel's grandson, John Karr of Kippilaw, died unmarried in 1746, after executing a will by which his estate came, in 1799, to his great-nephew John Seton, eldest son of Daniel Seton of Powderhall, who assumed the surname of Karr in addition to his own. Several of the descendants of Daniel Seton of Powderhall distinguished themselves in India

and elsewhere in the civil or military service of the Government, and his great-great-grandson is the present—

HENRY SETON-KARR OF KIPPILAW, M.P. Mr. Seton is married and has issue. His brother, Heywood Walter Seton-Karr, is a great traveller and a noted sportsman, and has written some interesting books, while his uncle, Walter Scott Seton-Karr (born 23d January, 1822), passed through the Sepoy Mutiny with credit, and has published a volume on *Lord Cornwallis* in the “Rulers of India” series.

CHAPTER XVII.

MISCELLANY.

Tranent.

TRANENT is a small town situated in Haddingtonshire, on the highroad between Edinburgh and London, in the midst of a rich agricultural country with an extended landscape reaching off to Seton Bay and the sea.* Its history for many centuries was intimately connected with that of the Seton family. It stands along the brow of rising ground on the south side of a narrow vale, at the bottom of which is a brook; and has its ancient name of *Travernent*, since abbreviated into Tranent, from three British words, which signify the habitation or village at the ravine. In the oldest writs pertaining to the Barony of Tranent, Swan or Sweyn, as Lord of the Manor, claims preëminence. Whence he came, or from whom descended, or how he obtained the lands is not recorded. From the Charter of Holyrood House we know that shortly after 1124 a grant was made to *Thor filius Swani de Trannent*.

This Thor or Thorald, son of Swan, died in 1154. It would appear that with him the family ended, and that, in accordance with feudal usage, the property reverted to the Crown, and consequently came into the possession of Malcolm IV., called the Maiden.

The next proprietor of these lands was Robert de Quincy, a Northamptonshire baron, who acquired them from William the Lion in 1165. To him succeeded, first, Saher, Secher,

* It is now (1899) a place of 2,389 inhabitants.

or Seyer, his elder son, and afterward his younger son Roger. Roger de Quincy was Earl of Winchester in England as well as Lord of Tranent in Scotland, of which he was Constable in right of his wife Helen, the eldest daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway. Roger died, leaving three daughters co-heiresses. The eldest daughter, Margaret, married William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, who got by her the Barony of Tranent; the second, Elizabeth, married Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan in Scotland, and brought him the Constableness, besides Elphinstone, Myles, and some other part of Tranent; Ela, the youngest, married Sir Allan la Zouche of Ashby, and brought as her share the lands of Fawside and the mines and miners of Tranent. These ladies were first-cousins of John Balliol, and their husbands naturally sided with him in the contest for the crown against the Bruces. When the latter won, King Robert "gave their estate to his kinsman and companion-in-arms, Alexander de Seton, whose family had for several generations possessed the neighboring lands of Seton and Winton."

It was customary for the Earls of Winton, one of whose titles was Lord Tranent, to ride the marches once a year—that is to say, to ride in state around the boundaries of their compact possession—Seton, Winton, and Tranent—the extent of which may be inferred from the fact of its taking a whole day, from sunrise to sunset, to do it. On these occasions the earl was always accompanied by a very large retinue of friends and retainers, mounted on gayly caparisoned horses, that of the chief being arrayed in a cloth of silk with gold tassels hanging to the ground. The earl kept "open house," and the festivities lasted over several days.*

* In the thirteenth century the value of this great estate was, we find, £15 annually. In the seventeenth century (1653), according to the cess-roll of the County of Haddington, including casualties arising from coal, salt, etc., it was estimated at £14,925. Throughout a long term of years, in all civil affairs, the house of Seton or Winton is ever found either leading the van or pressing determinedly forward. But in religious matters

No sooner had the Setons acquired the Barony of Tranent, than the excavation of coal on that estate was prosecuted with new and enlightened vigor. The earliest mention of the working of coal in Scotland is in connection with Tranent and the country immediately around it, and is found in a charter of Seyer de Quincy to the monks of Newbattle, which must have been granted, says Chalmers, between 1202 and 1218. When Æneas Sylvius—afterward Pope Pius II.—visited Scotland under James I. (1424–1437), coal and its use as a combustible was something so wonderful as to be next thing to a miracle.*

The ancient church of Tranent, so barbarously destroyed in 1797, was constructed about the middle of the eleventh century; but most of its earlier history is lost. The oldest record relating to the subject is of about the year 1145, when Thor or Thorald, the son of Swan, confirmed to the canons-regular of St. Augustine of the Abbey of Holyrood House, founded by King David in 1128, the church of Tranent, reserving the rights of Walleran, the chaplain, during his life. The canons enjoyed the church, with its rights and revenues, which were very considerable, until the Reformation. The parish was served by a vicar, who had the "small" tithes for his support. In 1222 we find one John exercising the office,

their progressive part seems to have been played prior to the days of Wishart, Knox, and Melville. All through, that family are said to have been bitterly and resolutely opposed to the Reformation. But the glories of the House of Winton have departed forever; and sad it is to think that this ancient and once powerful family, after possessing these lands for about six hundred years, should, at last, in 1715, be deprived of all, through their devoted attachment to the unfortunate House of Stuart.—MCNEILL: *Tranent and its Surroundings*, 1884.

* *Europæ Descriptio*, II., Cap. xlvi. Visitors to Siena will remember the beautiful series of mural paintings by Pinturicchio in the Piccolomini Hall or Library of the cathedral, illustrating events in the life of Æneas Sylvius, one of which shows his presentation to the Scotch king. "It is a purely conventional production, and has no suggestion of reality" (Brown: *Early Travellers in Scotland*, p. 29).

and in 1320 the place is filled by Andrew. After that we hear no more of the vicar until 1562, when Thomas Cranston, who had been inducted by the canons at some earlier date unknown, is found installed as minister, a member of the Assembly, and married. The conclusion is, that he conformed to the Protestant religion.

The churchyard of Tranent contains some old tombstones. The finest one is that of—

BAILIE SETON.

“ The following tombstones, that of Seton to the right and that of Vallance to the left of the entrance from the new to the old churchyard, seem to have been the most beautiful ever erected within these grounds. The fact of the Seton shield, &c., being elaborately carved on the former, indicates that he to whose memory the stone was raised must have been a scion of the House of Winton. Inscription as follows :—

Bailie

George Seton,

Farmer at Seton,

Died the 10th day of May 1760, aged 82.

You err, O reader, if you should expect

Big swelling words, immodesty, respect

How short man's life, 'las, while we live we
die ;

To know man's life, keep death still in your
eye.—

To the memory

Of Katherine Turnbull, relict

of George Seton, Farmer in Seton,

who died Oct. 5th, 1766,

Aged 73 years.” *

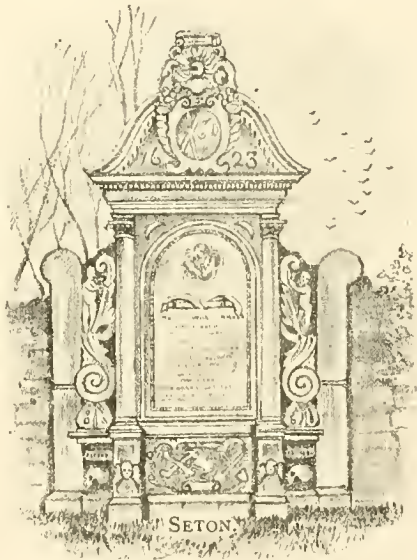
Another old stone, supported by four stout pillars with sculptural adornments, is that of Hutchison, but originally erected by an Earl of Winton to some one of his family, as seen by the earliest inscription, which is to a “ William Seton, Tenant in Seton,” who died in 1706, and to Agnes, his spouse.

* McNeill : *Tranent*.

The Hutchisons, to whom the place of sepulture now belongs, claim descent from the House of Seton. Captain William Hutchison, who was Governor of Cape Coast Castle in Africa, and died when at home on a visit in 1832, is buried here, as also Captain George Hutchison, R.N., whose book-plate I possess. He was uncle to the Misses Hutchison, living at Seton Lodge, Tranent, upon whom I called, to my great pleasure and satisfaction, in 1889. The Seton arms are cut in stone over the entrance to the Lodge.

Another tombstone, of 1700, recalls "Adam Persone, Shoemaker and Tanner in Seton," reminding us of the bright little village of that name which so long existed beside the castle. It was ruthlessly destroyed, after a cruel eviction of the poor tenants at the end of the last century, by the same monster of bad taste who pulled down Seton House.

Sir Walter Scott says of this little village in his *Provincial Antiquities* (II., 144): "Close by the palace of Seton there formerly subsisted a village, inhabited by a class of persons termed Rentallers, or *kindly tenants*; cottagers that is, who had no proof to show of their possession excepting their being entered in the Lord's rental book as possessors of the various petty tenements, which they enjoyed for trifling re-



BAILIE SETON'S TOMB, IN TRANENT
CHURCHYARD.

turns, the principal advantage derived by the Baron being, doubtless, his having the benefit of their military service in case of his having in the expressive, though oblique, phrase of those old times, 'ought to do.' "

In a short account of the Mission of Tranent and of the laying of the corner-stone of a Catholic church in 1891, which was kindly sent me by Rev. Father Roche, there is an illustration of Seton Chapel. Among the contributors to the building of the church are the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquess of Bute, the Duchess Dowager of Buccleugh, Major-General Lord Ralph Kerr, C.B., and other distinguished people. There is only one of the name of Seton among the contributors, and he is an American.

Witchcraft in Tranent.

Tranent of all places in Scotland was the most notorious for its witcheries, sorceries, and necromancies. David Seton has been held up to just execration, says one writer, as the man who "struck the spark that caused this appalling explosion of national insanity." The celebrated case in which the "Scottish Solomon," as King James I. (of England) was called, took such a personal interest, and to which Burton alludes in the seventh volume of his *History* (p. 115), was that of a young, comely, and intelligent maid-servant in Seton's family named Gillis Duncan. By use of the *pilliwinkis*, or thumb-screws, a confession of witchcraft was forced from her by this grim official, in the presence of five witnesses, after she was discovered one moonlight night (for she used to disappear out of the house mysteriously) walking alone in the haunted churchyard of Tranent. She was then summoned to Holyrood by the king, and was required, while playing a Jew's harp, to dance before the court "the reel she had performed for the devil and the witches in the kirk of North Berwick,"

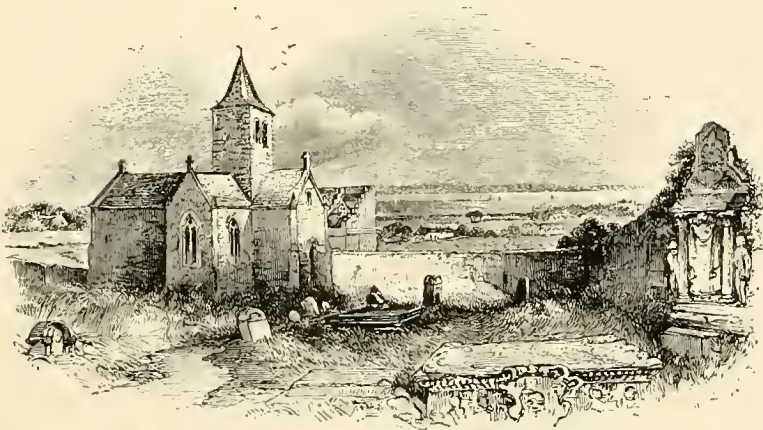
a saltatory exercise with which, says the chronicle, his Majesty was wonderfully pleased—which reminds one of Tam-o'-Shanter's "Weel done, Cutty-Sark!" at the midnight revels of Kirk-Alloway.

The Seton-thorn, an historical landmark near the family castle, appears to have been a famous trysting-place for witches, and is frequently mentioned in Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials* and works of special information on these phenomena in Scotland.

Old Buildings of Tranent.

There are few old houses still standing in Tranent, and these are doomed to give way to sanitary and domestic improvements. The oldest and most interesting of them is Tranent Tower. It is magnificent, and very solidly built. It was probably constructed by Swan, in the eleventh century. Here his son Thor dwelt; and its thick walls have guarded the Quincys, the Ferrers, and the Setons.

Another building is called The Old Dookit. It is seen



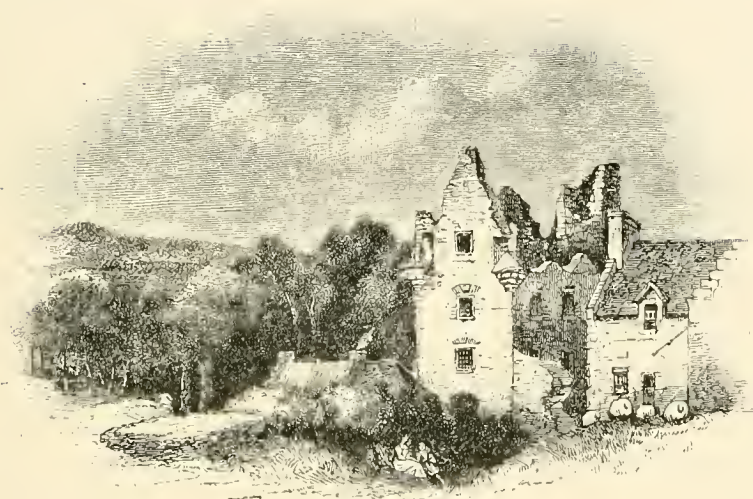
OLD TRANENT CHURCH AND, BEYOND IT, DAVID SETON'S DOOKIT.

just beyond the church in the illustration of Tranent. It stands—or perhaps *stood*, for I heard recently that it was to be taken down—on a prominent position in a field opposite the churchyard, commonly called the Dookit Brae. It was built in the latter part of the sixteenth century by David Seton, who was Chamberlain to his relative Lord Seton and Deputy Bailiff of Tranent town. It had been constructed, as the pigeon holes show, to accommodate 1,090 pair of pigeons, and bears the following inscription: *David Sitoun—1587*.

Falside.

Falside Castle, now in ruins, has a remarkable history. It lies about eight miles to the east of Edinburgh, and nearly two miles to the west of the village of Tranent. It is a strong and ancient fortalice, and a picturesque object in that land of mediæval towers, and is supposed to have been begun in the latter part of the eleventh century, and probably by Saher de Say himself, who there found his first secure resting-place in Scotland. Its earliest history connects it with the Seton family, to a younger branch of which it once belonged and gave a name, “who styled themselves *Seton of Falside*,” and afterward “*de Falside*” only, a not uncommon process in far-back times in Scotland, when juniors succeeding to or in any way acquiring an independent estate often dropped the patronymic and assumed a totally new name—either that of the heiress-wife or of the mother from whom they got the property, or that of the land itself. Thus, the Edmonstones of Edmonstone were originally Setons, as is now recognized even by themselves.* The Gordons and the Montgomeries also are examples of change of name on succeeding to great inheritances.

* *Genealogical Account of the Family of Edmonstone of Duntreath.*



RUINS OF FALSIDE CASTLE.

During the twelfth century the castle was inhabited by William de Ffauside, who sat in the Parliament of King David I. In the same century, Edmund de Ffauside witnessed the charter by which that king granted lands to Thor of Tranent; and during the reign of William the Lion, Gilbert de Fauside witnessed a charter to the neighboring monastery of Saint Mary of Newbattle. “The oldest part of the structure is of high but unknown antiquity, and contains in its stair a curious hiding-place; and even the newer parts are comparatively very old, but are less massive. The castle gave Protector Somerset some trouble on the morning of the Battle of Pinkie, and was then burnt, but not very materially damaged.”* A large additional tower, after a more convenient style, was built about 1618, which date is seen, along with the initials J. F. and J. L., cut into the stone above one of the windows. The dovecote of the castle still stands, and

* *Topographical and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland*, II., 766.

within it is a place of concealment or of confinement, secured by an antique grated door. Many of the inmates of the castle were burned alive or smothered by the smoke during the cruel English invasion of 1547; but although rendered uninhabitable for a time, it was not then altogether destroyed, on account of the massive structure of its walls, ranging from four and a half to six feet thick, and its first floor and roof being arched over with stone. The gable end to the south, both corners of which are turreted, rises to fifty feet in height. This part must have been among the repairs made after the burning. The family is brought down, in an almost unbroken line, by charters at different times, although these furnish but a rather dry list of names and dates to tell its history. Thus, in 1296 Robert de Fauside signed the Ragman's Roll.* Four years later, Roger and William swore allegiance to Edward I. of England; but Roger, later on, obtained a regrant of the lands from good King Robert Bruce, who knew under what duress he must have acted. Sir Thomas de Fauside witnessed a charter of Duncan, Earl of Fife, to the Monastery of Lindores in 1350; Malcolm de Fauside gave a charter in 1366, which was witnessed by the Sheriff of Edinburgh; in 1371 William de Seton as overlord conveyed to his kinsman John de Fawside, for "true and faithful service," the lands of Wester Fawside, in the Barony of Tranent; in 1425 William de Fawside and Marjorie Fleming, his spouse, obtained the lands of Tolygart. In 1472 John Fawside *of that ilk* married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Swinton of Swinton; and on his death, in 1503, she took the veil and died Prioress of the Cistercian Convent at Elcho.

* No acceptable etymology or meaning has yet been found for this peculiar term *Ragman*. The Rolls, so called, contain the names of those who did homage to King Edward I. in his triumphal progress through Scotland, when he was prepared to punish all who should maintain their independence.

About 1540 a battle was fought, the occasion of which was a quarrel about their cattle which watered in a stream common to both estates, between Hamilton of Preston and Fawside *of that Ilk* and their fierce retainers. The former were finally defeated, but not until the aged Chief of Falside had been dragged from his horse and killed in the *mêlée*. Between 1555 and 1583 "Thomas Fawside *de eodem*" entered into a transaction with the Abbot of Dunfermline. In 1616 James Fawside *of that Ilk* became pledge and security for Sir Patrick Chirnside of East Nisbet, who was accused of abducting a girl of thirteen from Haddington; and in the same year—on November 10th—John Fawside, the Laird's brother, was assassinated by his servant, who suffered death for the crime at Edinburgh. "James Seton of Fallsyde" was one of the mourners at the magnificent public funeral of Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline and Lord Chancellor of Scotland in 1622. He can be no other than the "James Fawside of that Ilk" who avenged his brother's death, as above; and it is something very singular, indicating a species of reversion in this family toward its original patronymic on so great a ceremonial occasion in which they would claim a right to take part. In 1631 Robert Fawside *of that Ilk* is mentioned; and in 1666 James, his oldest son, witnessed a charter to George, Earl of Haddington. James seems to have been the last of the male line of the Fawsides of Fawside, originally Setons of Fawside, Fauside, or Falside. His daughter and heiress, Agnes, married Sir William Douglass of Kelhead, Knight, second son of the first Earl of Queensberry. He was an officer in the army, and died Governor of Carlisle, in 1673. Their eldest son was made a Baronet *of Nova Scotia* on February 20, 1688, and in 1810 the fifth baronet succeeded to the title of Marquess of Queensberry. His grand-nephew, the present marquess, is the lineal descendant in the female line and Representative in blood of the House of Fawside; but the heritage

of this ancient family has passed to Sir George Grant-Suttie, Bart., and all that now remains of a race that flourished there for over four hundred years are the ruins of the old weather-beaten castle bearing their name, and a quaint though much-defaced tablet, formerly in the inside, but now on the outside north wall of Tranent Church, inscribed "John Fawside of that ilk."

The arms were *gules*, a fess *or* between three bezants of the same. The tinctures are those of Seton, only reversed. The fess, in heraldry, is a bar drawn across the middle of the shield, and is emblematical, perhaps, of the military belt or girdle worn by knights around the emblazoned surcoat or outer garment, which was thrown over the armor to keep it from rust and dirt. The bezants, or golden roundels, representing a Byzantine coin or money of Constantinople, would seem to indicate some Crusading ancestor who was made prisoner, and had to ransom himself from the Infidel.

Elphinstone Castle.

This grand ruin is situated on rising ground in the southern extremity of the Parish of Tranent. It is built on solid rock. Nothing but the great tower now remains, but it is one of the most remarkable and best preserved of the old Scottish keeps. It is an oblong square more than sixty-five feet high, constructed of large blocks of hewn stone, laid in courses. The walls at the base are over twelve feet thick. The building is entered through a Norman-shaped archway. A narrow stone staircase leads up to the second story, which forms a single apartment—the feudal banquetting hall—thirty feet long, eighteen feet wide, and nearly twenty-five feet high. It is lighted by two windows, from which there are beautiful views over the surrounding country. This apartment con-

tains a monument of heraldic interest to several families, for over the enormous open fireplace is a line of eight armorial shields finely carved in stone. The Seton arms—once with and once without the Double Tressure—occur twice, because



ELPHINSTONE TOWER.

that family was twice connected with the noble house of Elphinstone. They are the first and second in the row. The lands of Elphinstone, like those of Falside, were at one time a part of the great Manor of Tranent. John de Elphinstone witnessed a charter in 1250, and died in 1260. He is said to have erected the tower. The baronial family of Elphinstone took its surname from the lands so called in Lothian, which they held in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries from the Setons. The Elphinstones swore allegiance to King

Edward I. of England in 1296. On the triumph of Bruce and the National party they had to suffer the consequences, and their property was bestowed by the king on his nephew, Sir Alexander de Seton. Ere long, however, the estate returned to its original possessors through the heir of the attainted house marrying Margaret, daughter of Sir Christopher Seton, and sister of the fortunate and generous Sir Alexander. In 1338 John de Elphinstone, a descendant of Margaret Seton, was witness to a charter.

This ancient and distinguished family is now represented in the Peerage by Lord Elphinstone. Creation, 1509.

“*Seyton, an Officer Attending on Macbeth.*”

Macky, in his *Journey Through Scotland*, published in 1723, after describing the “Palace of Seton,” goes on to speak of the family, and says: “They are also very ancient. Shakespeare in his tragedy of Macbeth brings in the Lord Seton.” It seems, at first sight, a stain on the escutcheon of the Setons to be thus associated with Macbeth.*

The truth is, however, that Duncan was a usurper, Macbeth’s claim to the crown being the better; and he was slain in a sudden encounter within the territory ruled by Macbeda (or Macbeth), the Maormor of Ross, while there with aggressive designs. The place where he was killed was called *Bothgowan*, which means in Gaelic the smith’s hut, or the smithy. Duncan’s taking off was a Nemesis, for Macbeth’s wife, Gruach, was the daughter of that prince named Bode, whose son or grandson had been put to death by Malcolm with the object of securing the succession to his own grandson Duncan,

* This was once thrown up to me by a rich New Yorker—type of an envious class of moneyed people :

Non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa.—DANTE.



“ SEYTON, AN OFFICER ATTENDING ON MACBETH. ”

On this nobleman's shield is seen the famous Wyvern, or Dragon-crest, of the Setons.

(From a painting done at Rome in 1836 and now at Innsbruck.)

and Lady Macbeth was dowered with an inheritance of revenge in keeping with the laws and customs of that rude Northern people eight hundred and fifty years ago. The learned Chalmers in his *Caledonia* completely vindicates Macbeth, and Burton says: "It is among the most curious of the antagonisms that sometimes separate the popular opinion of people of mark from anything positively known about them, that this man, in a manner sacred to splendid infamy, is the first whose name appears in the ecclesiastical records, both as a King of Scotland and a benefactor of the Church." *

Macbeth made a pilgrimage to Rome, and was munificent in his alms to the poor of that city.

Shakespeare's intention in the play was to flatter King James I., supposed to be descended from Banquo, who in that uncritical age was called ancestor of the Royal House of Stuart; but being an Englishman of the day, he hated Scotchmen, and while openly flattering the king, was quite capable of covertly insulting his minister. We have seen how Sir Henry Yelverton behaved. Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, practically governed Scotland at that time, and was the most influential man in the kingdom, and the one whose frequent appearances in London would make Englishmen acquainted with his name and the fact that he belonged to a family of great antiquity. The name was then almost always written SEYTON, just as Shakespeare has it, and I believe it was made to figure in such a compromising manner, as that of an adherent of the malevolent Macbeth, in order to cast odium on the Lord Chancellor.

* *Hist. of Scot.*, I., 345.

Confessors of the Faith.

John Seton, D.D., was a celebrated divine of the sixteenth century, who belonged to the English branch of the family. He may have sprung from the Setons of County Rutland, to whom belonged Roger de Seyton, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1274.* Henry de Seton was Principal or Warden of Balliol College, Oxford, in 1323, and Thomas de Setone was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1357.

These Setons are said by the author of *The Sinclairs of England* (London, 1887) to derive originally from the great Norman family of *de Sancto Claro* = de Saint Clair, but their more certain derivation is from Simon de St. Liz, whose descendants assumed the surname of Seton. Agnes de Seton, "the heir female of this family, married in the reign of Henry VI. Sir William Fielding, ancestor of the Fieldings, Earls of Denbigh."† Basil, second Earl of Denbigh, was created 2d February, 1663-64, Lord *St. Liz*, to commemorate this ancestral alliance.

Dr. Seton is mentioned, along with others, in a note to Hallam's *Literary History*, I., 348, among the learned men of Cambridge about 1530, most of whom afterward became distinguished on one side or the other in the controversies of the Reformation. He is also praised as a man of constancy and patient endurance in Sander's *Rise and Growth of the Anglican Schism*.

Dr. Seton was connected with Saint John's College, at that time the most renowned of Cambridge University. He was one of the chaplains of Gardiner, and was made a Prebendary of Winchester in 1553, and afterward a Canon of York. He died at Rome, where the following inscription was set up to his memory, in 1567, in the Church of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, attached to the English College.

* Edward Foss: *Judges of England*, pp. 607-608.

† Burke: *Extinct and Dormant Peerages*, p. 468.

D. O. M.
 R. D. Jo. Setono P^R.^o Anglo
 Theologiae Professori Candidiss
 Qui Post Duriss^a Vincula Et
 Multa Adversa Pro Sacror
 Dogmatum Assertione Ppessa
 Romam Ex Patria Exul Venit
 Ubi An^o Aetatis Suae LXX^o
 Animam Deo Dicavit
 XIII^{II} Kl. Aug. MDLXVII
 R. S. Anglus Ex Test Her
 Opt. Mer P C

This can be translated as follows :

TO GOD MOST GOOD MOST GREAT.
 In Memory of the Reverend John Seton
 An English Priest
 And a very distinguished Professor of Theology
 who after suffering Chains and many Persecutions in Defence
 of the Holy Faith
 Came to Rome an Exile from his
 Native Land
 And died there in the Seventieth year of his Age
 On the 19th of August 1567.
 R. S. an Englishman and his heir by Will
 Has set this up to a very worthy Man.

The *R. S.* here may stand for Robert or Richard or Roger Seton. This Very Rev. Dr. Seton was a fellow-exile, friend, and companion of Thomas Godwell, last Catholic Bishop of Saint Asaph. Together they signed an Attestation at Rome on January 29, 1561, concerning the noble family of Sackville.*

David Seton.

Several establishments in Scotland, belonging to the Military Orders, owed their foundation to the piety and liberality of King David I. in the twelfth century. One of the most

* Brady : *Episcopal Succession*, I., 87.

important was Torphichen, a church and preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem, situated a few miles from Linlithgow. In 1345 Alexander de Seton is mentioned in a charter as a Knight of the Order in that house. The last Preceptor or Grand Master of the Order in Scotland was Sir James Sandilands, who, having joined the Reformers in 1560, was guilty of a breach of trust in receiving the large estates of his Order as a temporal barony. He was raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Torphichen, and given an heraldic augmentation which was no less than the arms of the Order in Scotland, thus formally perpetuating the memory of his sacrilege. The peerage is still extant. Some remains of the Hospital or Preceptory are yet standing, with parts of the choir and transepts of the church. When the Knights Hospitallers were deprived of their patrimonial interest in this property by Sir James Sandilands, they made an official protest, and drew off in a body, bearing their processional cross, with David Seton, Grand Prior of Scotland, at their head. The transaction is alluded to in a curious satirical poem of that period, entitled *Holy Church and Her Thieves*, in which Seton is named with high praise. He went abroad and died broken-hearted in 1581, and is buried in the church of the Scotch Convent at Ratisbon, in Germany.

Jesuits at Seton.

One of the most powerful factors in maintaining alive even a spark of the ancient faith in Scotland was the missionary ardor of the newly founded Society of Jesus. The celebrated Father William Holt, of Lancashire, England, studied at Oriel College, Oxford; was ordained priest at Douay, and proceeding to Rome, joined the Jesuits, May 8, 1578. In 1581 he was sent to Scotland, where he resided two years. He said

mass and preached in Lord Seton's house at Christmas, 1581-82. He recommended that all priests coming into Scotland should disembark at Leith, because it was only six miles from Seton.

The next Jesuit whom we find there is Father William Crichton. He went to Scotland in 1582. "At the time of his arrival only one of the members of the Royal Council, Lord Seton, remained constant to his religion. This nobleman willingly received Fr. Crichton into his house, and treated him with kindness and respect." *

Father James Gordon labored hard on the mission in Scotland. In a letter to the Father General from Altona, near Hamburg, July 13, 1597, he tells of his residence at Seton, "which is very splendid and very agreeable, and not more than eight miles from Edinburgh. My removal to this place irritated the Ministers to the last degree. I had shown myself the principal opponent of their faith or rather want of faith, and here I was lodged in the best quarters in all Scotland, treated as a friend, and living among my kinsmen and connections." This zealous missionary died at Paris in 1620.

Another Jesuit living with Lord Seton was Father John Ogilvie, who, after much suffering and long imprisonment both in England and Scotland, died at Winton House in 1673.

Father James Mambrecht arrived on the Scotch Mission in 1627. "He was placed as Chaplain with George Seton, third Earl of Winton. After residing in this capacity for nearly twelve years, and endearing himself to all, his noble patron was accused of harbouring a Popish priest." Father Mambrecht was then secretly conveyed to another country.

* *Narratives of Scottish Catholics*, p. 181.

Seton Jesuits.

The first we meet with began his missionary life as a secular priest, and is thus mentioned by Father Gordon, Superior of the Scotch Mission, in a letter to the Father General, dated September 1, 1597: "I met another pious Priest, Father James Seton, who joined us from the Seminary at Pont-à-Mousson, ten years ago, and was labouring earnestly with us in our Lord's vineyard, as if he were one of us. He is desirous of being admitted to the Society, but, as he is advanced in years and somewhat infirm, we thought it best he should remain in his present condition." Notwithstanding a first repulse, Father Seton persevered in his petition to be received into the Society, and was admitted. There is a letter from him to Father Aquaviva, General of the Society, dated September 30, 1605, in which he gives an account of things in Scotland. In 1628 he was profitably employed in the Highlands. He had then in hand the conversion of Lord Ogilvie, "the head of his clan." After some time he was ordered to Germany; but hearing of the disconsolate state of his aged mother, who wished to see him before she died, he applied for permission to return to Scotland. He is met with there for several years after, until "the intense heat of the persecution and the virulence of the Kirk Ministers compelled him to sail for Norway." It is not recorded when or where he died, but he must have been of great age.

Father Alexander Seton (1) was in Germany, March 11, 1612, when Fr. Gordon recommended his recall to Scotland, "appearing the most suitable subject of all for that mission."

Father Alexander Seton (2) went by the *alias* of Ross. Was born in Scotland, November 4, 1665. After studying his Humanities, he went for two years to the Scotch College

at Douay for his Philosophy. Entered the Society at Tournay, October 3, 1687, and was sent to Scotland in 1700. Professed of the four vows in 1703. On the mission in Aberdeenshire in 1710. He was relieved of the mission for ill-health, and retired to Douay, where he died in 1729. "He was highly eulogized for his many virtues."

Father Alexander Seton (3), *alias* or *vere* Scringer. Henry Foley, S.J., tell us in his *Collectanea* (VII., p. 938) that the real name of this "very good and humble man, ready for every duty of charity, as far as his infirm health would allow," was Seton.

Father John Seton (1). He is mentioned in a letter of Father John Lesley to the General, 30th September, 1633, in which he relates the distress of the Scotch Mission by the death of its benefactor, Colonel Semple, in Spain. It does not appear that this Father was ever on the Mission in Scotland. He was either Rector of the College of Scotch Jesuits, in Madrid, at the date of this letter, or was sent there very soon afterward, and in consequence of it, for the letter says:

"Res Hispaniensis summa diligentia P. Joanni Seton, commendanda ut omni labore et studio soliti auxilii prorogatio impetretur."

Father John Seton (2) was formed in the Toulouse Province of the Society, "and became a very superior missionary." He worked for more than twenty years in Galloway, and in December, 1686, was in Perthshire. He was one of the earliest victims of the persecution arising from the Orange Revolution of 1688, and was arrested and imprisoned in Blackness Castle. In the spring of 1693, when seventy years of age, he and other priests were promised their liberty if they would leave the country; but they refused the terms, and were at length discharged by proclamation. "By his engaging

sweetness and patient zeal, he brought back more than five hundred strayed souls to the Church, and trained them in the way of piety and devotion. But what could not this man of God effect, whose life was a perpetual prayer?''* He died at Edinburgh in 1694.

Father John Seton (3). He was great-grandson of George, third Earl of Winton, and grandson of Sir John Seton of Garleton, Bart. Born November 9, 1695. Entered the Society at Madrid, September 20, 1716. Was Rector of the Scotch College there. He was sent to the Scotch Mission in 1725, and was professed of the four vows ten years later at Aberdeen. While residing at Edinburgh he admitted young Mr. George Hay, afterward the celebrated Bishop and writer, to a regular course of instruction and preparation, and finally received him into the Catholic Church, of which he was to become so great an ornament, on the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, December 21, 1748. Father John Seton died at Edinburgh, July 16, 1757.

Father Robert Seton. He was third son of Sir John Seton of Garleton, first Baronet, and died February 6, 1732, *act.* 61. A letter of Father Thomas Fife, dated Paris, June, 1732, to the Father General, which was long preserved in the archives of the Society at Rome, gives some particulars of his life:

"Seton, Robert, Father (Scotch), was born in Scotland, 1671; entered the Society at Toulouse, 1688, was ordained Priest 1698, and made a Spiritual Coadjutor, October 27, 1701. He died February 6, 1732, *act.* 61. We learn his history from a letter of Father Thomas Fife or Fyffe, dated Paris, June, 1732, to Rev. Father General in the Archives at Rome (a copy is given in a volume *Eulogia*, &c., in the Stonyhurst MSS. pp. 357, seq.) He says: 'Our beloved Father in Christ, Robert Seton, was carried off by violent fever, February 6th (N. S.), fortified by the sacraments of the Church. He was of the noble family of the Earl of Winton; born in Scotland, 1671; educated at Douay; entered the Society after completing his humanities in 1688, at Toulouse. After his noviceship he taught humani-

* Oliver; *Collections*.

ties and philosophy at the same place, and his health becoming seriously affected, was put to his theology, making one year at Toulouse and another at Douay. He was likewise urged on by an ardent zeal for souls and for the mission in his native land. Ordained Priest, he acted as Prefect of the scholars for a year at Douay, preparing himself in the interval for the mission. He was then sent to labour in the Lord's vineyard in Scotland, where he was professed of the three vows, October 27, 1701. Avoiding his noble and wealthy relatives, he proceeded to the rough Highland districts, where he assiduously and zealously worked for nearly thirty-three years. An indefatigable missionary, as those who were witnesses of many of his doings bear testimony.

“ Beloved of God and man, and practised in every virtue becoming a genuine son of the Society. Of great piety, and most devout to the Blessed Virgin, in whose honour he thrice daily recited the Litanies and Rosary, and this he often did with his guides on his circuits, and with the ignorant and rough villagers and boys to inspire them with devotion and love to our Lady.

“ He was specially devout to St. Francis Xavier, to whom he attributed his recovery from a dangerous illness in former years; daily recited his litanies and carried his picture about him. He was also a diligent emulator of the Blessed John Francis Regis, whom he had chosen from his noviceship as his patron and model. It was his constant practice to collect the children of the villages and give them familiar catechetical instruction for many hours in the evening. Before lying down at night he spent about half an hour on his knees in prayer with arms *alla croce*; rose early in the morning to his prayers, even during the severest winter cold, and often in houses where he rested, exposed to wind and rain and the inclemency of the weather, and frequently without fire or candle. He was such a lover of work that, except by necessity, he seldom stayed three days in the same place. The fruit of his labours was due to his assiduous practice of meditating upon heavenly things and was doubtless rendered more successful by Divine illuminations with which he was favoured, at times foretelling future events; for instance, a certain heretical parish minister having warned him to leave, lest some evil might befall him, he told him in the presence of some local authorities that he should not depart; that he, the minister himself, would be driven out first.

“ Time proved the truth of the prediction, for a few years after, upon occasion of a riot, the minister was expelled from the town.

“ Two or three striking cases are mentioned in proof of his ardent zeal for the salvation of souls, his exposing his life to eminent [*sic*] risk in nocturnal expeditions, over frightful roads, amidst storms and tempest, to perform the duties of his ministry.’ In the Scotch Catalogue for 1729 he is entered as in the College of Aboyne.”*

* Foley: *Records*, VII., Part II., p. 700.

At Terregles House, Dumfriesshire, the former residence of the Earls of Nithsdale, I was shown in the sacristy of the domestic chapel a small silver chalice with this inscription: *Elizabeth Maxwell Wintoniae Comitissa Me Fecit Deoque Dedicavit, Anno. 1677.* The lady here mentioned was daughter to John, Lord Herries, and, at this date, widow of George, third Earl of Winton, who died in 1650. This is a precious relic of the old missionary days in Scotland.

Setons in Prison for the '45.

Two young men—Setons—were confined in the Tolbooth, at Edinburgh, for some part they took in the rising of 1745 in favor of the Stuarts. They were kept there six months, without being allowed to pare their nails or to have their hair cut. It is a tradition that they emigrated to America. They would not be well affected toward the British Government. They cannot be traced in this country. Their sons, however—hardly they themselves—may have been the Lieutenant Seton of Colonel Clinton's "American" regiment and the Lieutenant John Seton of Colonel Graham's "American" regiment in 1776. There was an Ensign Seton in one of the patriot regiments, commanded in the Revolution by Kilian Van Rensselaer.

An officer of the Revenue Service at Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire, in 1747, named William Seton, "was discharged for being concerned in the last rebellion." He went to America and engaged in business there. He cannot be further traced, but is probably the person mentioned below. In Liber 34, p. 486, in the Hall of Records, New York City Hall, is a Power of Attorney dated January 11, 1758, given by Harry Roe to his "trusty and loving friend Mr. William Seton, of the City of New York, merchant." Sealed and delivered in presence

of John Learson and James Seton, of the city of New York. These Setons do not belong to our branch, nor is anything more known about them.

Seton of Newark.

Alexander Abercromby of Fetternear, younger brother of James Abercromby of Birkenbog, in Banffshire, father of the first Baronet of the family, married *Jean*, daughter of John Seton of Newark, and had three sons, of whom Patrick Abercromby, M.D., the youngest, was a writer of repute and author of *The Martial Achievements of the Scottish Nation*; and Francis Abercromby, the eldest, having married Anne, Baroness Sempill in her own right, was created a Peer of Scotland, for life only, as Lord Glassford, in July, 1685.

Seton Tartan.

Is chiefly red, with small lines of green, black, purple, and white. Although the Setons were a Lowland family, they had adopted a clan cognizance before the reign of James VI. (I. of England). It is mentioned by the author of *Vestiarium Scoticum*, a treatise on Scottish costume.

Seton Names.

All old families have certain Christian or fore-names which, in course of time, have become characteristic of them. The knowledge that certain Christian names, to the almost absolute exclusion of others, are found in particular families, is often an aid in genealogical researches. Before the middle of the fifteenth century the most common Christian names of men in the Seton family appear to have been *Christopher*

and *Alexander*, both of which occur pretty often even after that date. The marriage of John, Lord Seton, with Lady Janet Dunbar, daughter of George, Earl of March, "one of the most powerful nobles of his time," introduced the name of *George* into the family. It has been a favorite ever since. *Charles*, *James*, *William*, *Henry*, and *Robert* are also frequently met with in the family records. The more common female Christian names have been *Margaret*, *Mary*, *Catharine*, *Jean*, and *Elizabeth*. I regret to say that it is only in our American branch that a number of odiously un-Setonlike names are to be found.

Setons in Sweden.

The name of Seton has been known in Sweden since the early part of the seventeenth century. A Colonel Seton served with credit under Gustavus Adolphus. The present Setons of *Preston* and *Ekolsund* descend from Alexander, second son of Sir Walter Seton, first Baronet of Abercorn.

Setons in Italy.

There was a noble family, extinct at the beginning of this century, which had been settled in the Duchy of Milan for over three centuries, and claimed to descend from a certain *Dominus Franciscus de Sitonis, ex Antiquis Nobilibus Regni Scotiae*, who flourished before 1485, as in the proofs of nobility submitted in 1703 by *Dominus Johannes de Sitonis*.

It is stated that this branch of the family settled in Italy in 1450, in the persons of three soldiers and gentlemen, bearing the Christian names of John, James, and Adam. The arms that were borne by these "Sitoni di Scotia" are *not* the Seton arms; and the learned Italian genealogist, my friend Crollanza, editor of the *Annuario della Nobiltà*, is disinclined to

accept them as a branch of the "illustrious family from which they claimed descent." I am of the opinion, however, that they were genuine Setons, serving in the Scots Guard in Italy, wounded and left to die or recover, and who recovering may have married and settled there.

These "Sitoni di Scozia," as they were always called, were enrolled among the Patricians of Milan, an important and capital city which did not easily open its *Libro d'oro* to strangers. They also manifested some peculiarly Seton traits, and furnished a succession of scholars and distinguished literati in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Heraldic laws and customs have never been well established or observed in Italy, and a complete change of arms, made for sufficient reason, would not be extraordinary. The arms borne by the "Milanese Setons"—a river, a bridge, a castle defending it, and a black eagle on one of its towers—would seem to perpetuate heraldically some martial achievement performed by the brothers, as forcing the passage of a river and storming a *tête-de-pont* at the head of their command. The spelling of the name is precisely as my own name of Seton has been written by Italians who have only *heard* and not seen it.

Setons in Ireland.

"Alexander Seton, eldest son of James Seton of Perry-mount, Co. Tyrone, Esquire," was admitted to Gray's Inn, London, on November 23, 1792. He was son of James Seton, engaged in the linen manufacture at Drogheda, who wrote a letter from there to one of our family in New York, in 1797, asking for information about a son named Samuel, who had emigrated to America, and was last heard of as settled on "Presque Island" in Lake Erie. The writer also

mentions that two other sons of his had gone to America a few years before.

The only one of our name in the Dublin Directory in 1889 was "Charles Seton, Esq., 142 Tritonville Road, Sandymount." These Setons doubtless came originally from Scotland.

Last Man in England killed in a Duel.

The last fatal duel in England was fought with pistols, in the garden of a country house called Wormwood Scrubbs, a few miles out of London, between two officers of the Marine Corps—Lieutenants Hawkeye and Seton. The latter was killed, May 20, 1845.

"Seton Lake Mission."

It is in British Columbia, Diocese of New Westminster. Nearly two hundred Catholic Indians are attached to it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SETONS OF NEW YORK.

I NOW go back to the Parbroath line, which is continued by us.

I. JAMES SETON, ESQ. He succeeded his father Robert in the Representation of the Parbroath branch of the family, and settled in London, where he married Margaret Newton. There had been a baronetcy in the family given to Sir Robert Newton, citizen of London in 1660, which became extinct ten years later for want of male issue. He had one son and three daughters.

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Mary, married to "Dr. William Robertson, co. Surrey, of an ancient Scotch family." * Their eldest son was Captain George Robertson, R.N., who created a sensation during the American Revolution by marrying Ann Lewis, a Philadel-

* Robertson—the son of Robert—is a very old and distinguished Scotch name. It is one of the rare exceptions to the rule that patronymics formed from a Christian name followed by the filiation are of plebeian origin. They derive remotely from the Macdonalds, Lords of the Isles, through the marriage of Malcolm *de Insulis* with Lora, "Comitissa de Atholia," in the middle of the 13th century, and first appear as a clan in 1391. They are called by the Highlanders Clan Donnachie, *i.e.*, descendants of Duncan de Atholia (Earl of Atholl), who married a daughter of the Earl of Lennox and had a son Robert, whence the family name. The chief of this noble clan is Robertson of Struan, County Perth, one of whose ancestors arrested the desperate murderers of King James I., and received for his brave services a crown charter erecting his lands into a free barony in 1451, and an honorable augmentation to his arms.—*The Scottish Clans and Their Tartans*, p. 83, Edinburgh and New York, 1892.

phia beauty, whose mother was a New York Livingston, and therefore bitterly opposed to the British interest. Captain Robertson was maternal grandfather of the first Lord Moncrieff. Mr. William Seton of New York has a very beautiful silver-mounted shell snuff-box—a *Cypraea Mauritiana*, whose habitat is the Indian Ocean—with an inscription and the date 1769 engraved on the lid, which was given to his great-grandfather by his cousin, George Robertson. General Robertson, who at one time commanded the British forces in New York, was nearly related to these Setons. His only daughter became Lady Henderson in 1782.

3. Margaret, married a Dundas of Manour. She was mother of Captain Ralph Dundas, R.N., who served with the British fleet on the American coast during the Revolution, and was often in New York City. The Dundasses of Manour or Manor, County Perth, were a branch of Dundas of Duddingston, which itself was a branch of Dundas of Dundas. The titular head of this distinguished family is the Marquess of Zetland, but the Chief is plain Mr. Dundas (of Dundas). Mary, sister of the Captain, and “daughter of Ralph Dundas, Esq., of Manour,” married George Abercromby, Esq., of Tullibody, whose son was the gallant general killed in Egypt, and whose grandson was Lord Abercromby of Aboukir.

James Seton was murdered in a rising of the slaves at Cape Français, in San Domingo, while on a voyage to the West Indies with the intention of settling there and sending for his family.

II. JOHN SETON, ESQ., Representative of Parbroath. He was born in 1712, and succeeded his father in the barren honor and some cherished heirlooms. He lived, at one time, in Camberwell, County Surrey, and was engaged in business in London. Andrew Elliot, third son of Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart., and uncle of the first Earl of Minto, who afterward



your ever affectionate Mother God Bless you all
Elizabeth Seton. 23 March
1785

(From original by Lady Synnot, now at Ballymoyer House.)

filled several government offices in New York at the period of the Revolution, came from Scotland in 1746, recommended to our John Seton, in whose hands was placed a sum of £700, which was the young man's capital to begin business on in America.

John Seton married his cousin, Elizabeth Seton, who was (as she says in a letter) "born on the family estate of Belsies, on the 17th of February 1719." She was daughter of James, son of John Seton, who held the office of Town Clerk of Burntisland in the early years of the eighteenth century. James Seton acquired the property of Belshes or Belsislands, in the County of Haddington, between 1715 and 1721. His son was James Seton of Hillside, Edinburgh, who sold the estate. His sister received, as her share, the sum of £1,600, and had besides a small annuity settled upon her. He was for many years a Director of the Bank of Scotland. He and his affairs and his children are often mentioned in our old family letters. Elizabeth Seton died in 1797, and is buried in the Cayley vault at Brompton in Yorkshire, England. John and Elizabeth Seton had two sons and five daughters:

1. John, the eldest, emigrated to the British West Indies, and, dying unmarried, was buried "within the parish of St. James' (Barbadoes) on December 22nd, 1768."

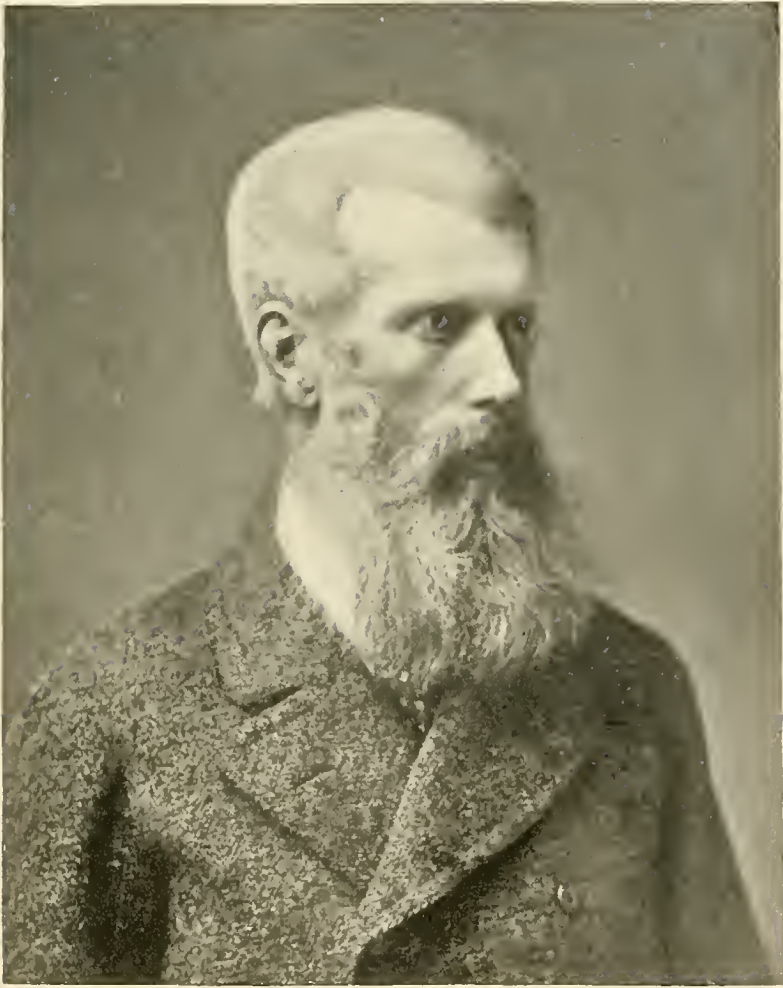
2. William, of whom hereafter.

3. Isabella Seton, married, in 1763, Thomas, afterward Sir Thomas Cayley, a Yorkshire baronet, whose ancient family came from Normandy with the Conqueror, and is mentioned in Domesday Book as tenant-in-chief of several manors in Berkshire. The baronetcy was created in 1661, but there was a barony in the family as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century, which expired when Thomas Lord Cayley of Buckenham died, *s. p.*, about 1315, leaving an only sister and heiress, Margerie Cayley or *de Cailli*, who married Roger

de Clifton, and carried her great estates into that house, from which they passed to the ancient family of Knyvet, now represented in the Peerage by Baroness Berners. The only son of Sir Thomas and Lady Cayley was George, the sixth baronet. He sat in Parliament for Scarborough, and his portrait, as also that of his son-in-law and cousin, Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, of Wydale House, who represented the North Riding of Yorkshire, is in the large historical painting by Sir George Hayter, in the National Portrait Gallery, at London, showing the interior of the old House of Commons during the moving of the Address to the Crown, February 5, 1833. I remember, as a boy, meeting Sir George Cayley and his daughter Isabella, wife of Sir Thomas Style, Bart.; also Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, M.P., who was a tall and stately gentleman.* Sir George was a singularly gifted man; a lover of literature and the fine arts. He died in 1857.

Of the children of Sir Thomas and Lady Cayley, the one most frequently mentioned in our old letters from England is "sweet Anne," their youngest child, who married at fifteen the Rev. George Worsley, and was mother of Sir William Worsley, Baronet, of Hovingham Hall, County York, of a family that goes back to the Conquest. Lady Cayley died in 1828. She was godmother to my dear and valued friend, kinsman, and correspondent, the late Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, Esq., of Wydale and Low Hall, County York, J.P. and D.L. Her great-great-grandson is the

* He took me one afternoon to see Parliament sitting. In the House of Commons I heard Palmerston, Disraeli, and Bulwer-Lytton speak; and in the Lords, Brougham and Derby and other orators and debaters. While here, a fine old gentleman—the Duke of Grafton—came up to our little corner and spoke to Mr. Cayley. I was introduced, and was immediately asked about the crops in America, and then he talked of corn and turnips and then of mangel-wurzel—things that didn't interest me at all, particularly in a place so novel and magnificent.



V. S. Cayley.



Mr. Sethus Lynne

present Baronet, Sir George E. A. Cayley of High Hall, who married a niece of the Earl of Wharncliffe. One of Lady Cayley's brothers is married to a daughter of Admiral Schley, U.S.N.

4. Jane Seton, married, in 1770, Sir Walter Synnot, Kt., of Ballymoyer House, County Armagh. This family possessed large estates and ranked among the most eminent of the gentry in Ireland, until dispossessed of all their lands by Oliver Cromwell. Colonel David Synnot, ancestor of Sir Walter, was Governor of Wexford in 1649, during the memorable siege. Seven brothers of this family sat at one and the same time in the Irish Parliament. Sir Walter Synnot was a distinguished and popular man in his day. He was High Sheriff of Armagh



MARY BERRY, 1790.

and Lieutenant-Colonel of a regiment reserved for himself by Lord Charlemont, Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteer Army in Ireland in 1779. Lady Synnot died at Ballymoyer. In the little Episcopal church erected on the estate in 1821 there is a pretty window inscribed: "To the glory of God and in Memory of Jane Seton, wife of Sir Walter Synnot. Died June 3rd, 1803, Aged 58." I visited beautiful Ballymoyer in 1889, and was most cordially entertained by their grand-

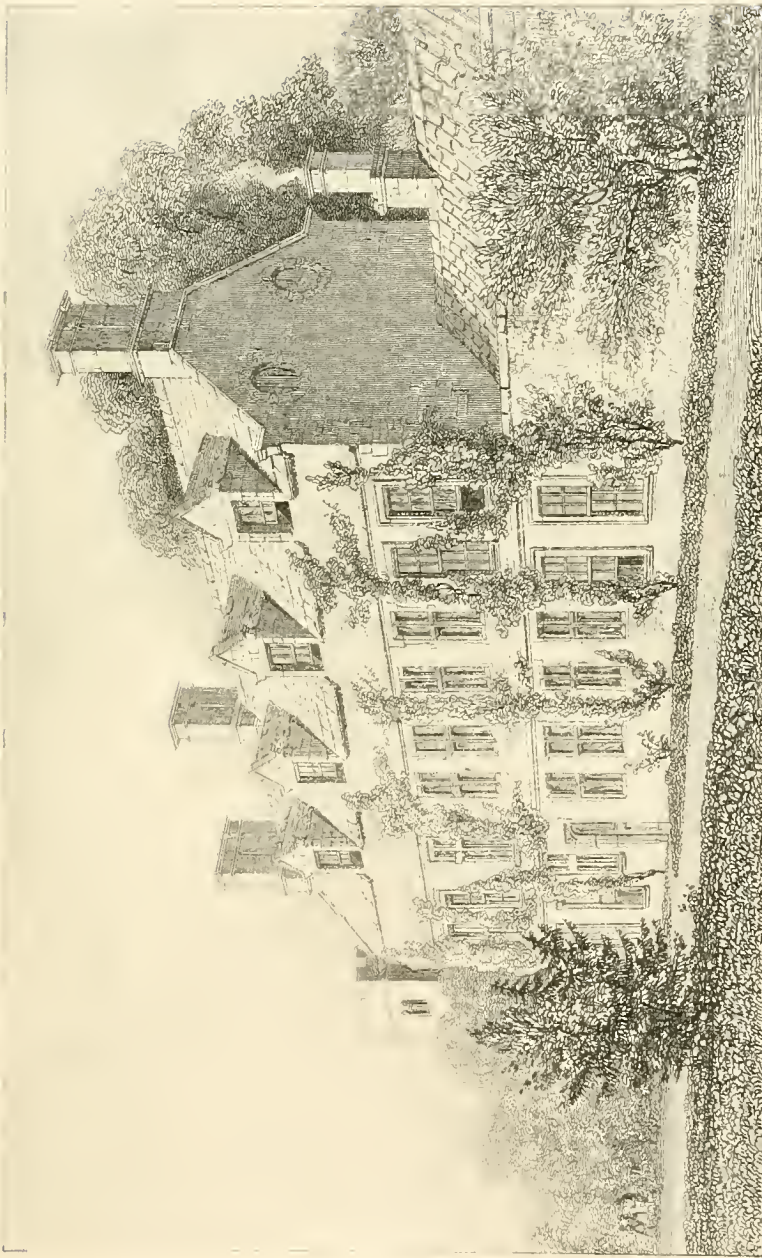
son, Mark Seton Synnot, Esq., J.P. and D.L. for County Armagh.

5. Elizabeth Seton, married Robert Berry, Esq., a nephew of Ferguson of Raith, and a distant kinsman of her own. He belonged to an old family formerly seated at Wester Bogie, in Fife. There was a baronetcy in the family conferred upon Sir Edward Berry, K.C.B., Rear-Admiral of the White, but extinct in 1831. Robert Berry was brought up with great expectations as the heir-at-law of his wealthy and childless uncle; but having no son by his marriage, and refusing to marry again, he was supplanted by his younger brother, William, who changed his name, and succeeded in 1780 to a large cash fortune and a fine estate called Raith, in Fifeshire. The only children of this marriage were those two distinguished ladies, Mary and Agnes Berry, so long the ornaments of London society, and the friends and correspondents of the celebrated Horace Walpole, afterward Earl of Orford. They were born at Kirkbridge, in Yorkshire, a lone but picturesque old ivy-grown house.* Their mother died in 1767. Writing long afterward of her death, Miss Berry remarks:

“Of my mother I have only the idea of having seen a tall, thin young woman in a pea-green gown, seated in a chair, seeming unwell, from whom I was sent away to play elsewhere. Of the excessive grief of my father and grandmother at her death I have no recollection; I think I must have been kept away from them. Of my own irreparable loss I had certainly then no idea, and never acquired a just one till some years after, when my father told us that my mother, on hearing some one say to her that I was a fine child, and that they hoped I should be handsome, said, that all she prayed to Heaven for her child was, that it might receive a vigorous understanding. This prayer of a mother of eighteen, for her first born, a daughter, struck me when I first heard it, and has impressed on my mind ever since all I must have lost in such a parent.

“From her death, however, dates the first feeling of unkindness and neglect which entered into my young mind, accustomed to nothing but the fondness of everybody about me. The first wife of that Lord Percy who

* It was the residence of Mrs. John Seton, with whom Robert Berry and wife lived during the first two years of their marriage.



KIRKERIDGE, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND, BIRTHPLACE OF MARY AND AGNES BERRY.

lived at Stanwick had become, from her near neighbourhood to Kirkbridge, very intimate and very much attached to my mother. Lady Percy was in London at the time of my mother's death, but, on her return to the North, had stopped in York to see and to weep with my grandmother, who from my mother's death had taken care of her two children.

"I have even now the clear and distinct idea of a lady in riding habit, sitting leaning on a chair drowned in tears, and on my running up to her and calling her by her name, pushing me away from her, and avoiding looking at me, instead of taking me on her lap as I expected.

"The feelings of sorrow, of surprise, and mortification were the very first of that long series of wounds to a very affectionate heart, which everybody has to undergo in life, and which nothing subsequent has blotted from my memory."

The Berry sisters grew up with advantages of education, travel, and social intercourse which developed literary and artistic abilities of no mean order. Madame de Staël, says Lord Houghton, thought Mary "by far the cleverest woman in England." She merits the eulogium passed upon her by Lady Theresa Lewis, in the Introduction to the *Journal and Correspondence of Miss Berry* which she edited in 1865:

"Miss Berry has more than ordinary claims to live in the memory of those to whom she was personally known. For an unusually lengthened period of years she formed a centre round which beauty, rank, wealth, power, fashion, learning, and science were gathered; merit and distinction of every degree were blended by her hospitality in social ease and familiar intercourse, encouraged by her kindness, and enlivened by her presence."

In 1844 Miss Berry published an edition of her writings in two handsome volumes.

Neither of the sisters married, although each had good and even brilliant offers. They figure among the members of English society satirized by Disraeli in *Trivian Grey*, as the Miss Otrantos. Their town residence, which now bears a memorial tablet to them, was No. 8 Curzon Street. Wilmot Harrison has an account of it and an engraving in his *Memorable London Houses*. The loving sisters died there at very advanced ages in 1852, sole survivors of two generations which had passed away. They lie buried amid shrubbery and flowers in the pleasant little graveyard of Petersham, "close to the

scenes which they had inspired with so many happy associations," says Lord Houghton, better known as Richard Monckton Milnes, in *Monographs, Personal and Social*. The inscription on their tomb is from the graceful pen of that Earl of Carlisle who, as Lord Morpeth, travelled in the United States many years ago, and left a sympathetic impression of himself on the New York society of the day. The goodness, beauty, and affectionate disposition of the Berry girls—her grandchildren—is often mentioned by old Mrs. Seton in letters to her son in New York.

6. Margaret Seton, married, in 1760, Andrew Seton, Esq., of whom hereafter.

7. Barbara Seton, married George Seton, Esq., of the East India Company's Service, who belonged to the Abercorn branch, and was a younger brother of Captain Sir Henry Seton, Bart., who served in America. Mrs. George Seton, when a widow, was in receipt of a small pension from the Company or the Government. They had an only child called Barbara, the "Bab" of our old family letters. Like her mother and all the rest of the Setons, she was tall and favored with natural talent, which was improved by education and intercourse with her cousins, the Berry sisters, who were early introduced into the best society by the Duchess of Northumberland, who had been a strong friend of their mother. A drama called the *Siege of Berwick* was written in the last century by Edward Jerningham, of which Horace Walpole, writing to Mary Berry from Strawberry Hill on Tuesday, November 14, 1793, says:

"George Cambridge was last night at the first representation of Jerningham's new play, and I was delighted to hear that it was received with great applause and complete success, being very interesting. The Baviad has been useful to it, for there is no love in it. Mr. Cambridge desired me to tell you that there was one deficiency in it, i.e., yr cousin *Miss Seton* should have played in it, for a Governor Seton, and his wife and two sons, are the principal personages."

Barbara—"Bab"—Seton married Mr. Bannister, a poor man, but of good family and well educated. They were last heard of as living at Honiton, in Devon, in 1838.

John Seton was alive in 1748, for he then wrote from London to Lord Minto—an honorary title as Lord Justice Clerk—about the business affairs of his son Andrew Elliot, who was settled at Philadelphia. He died before 1760.

III. WILLIAM SETON, ESQ., Representative of Parbroath. He was born in Scotland while his mother was on a visit to her family, on April 24, 1746, but passed his first years at Kirkbridge, in Yorkshire, England. He had received a good education, which was improved by travel and a knowledge of French and Spanish; for he went as a boy, probably with some older relative, to San Lucar in Spain. His brother-in-law, Andrew Seton, was already settled in New York, and by his persuasion William went there himself in 1763 and remained. At sixteen, with all the thrift and energy of the Scotch race, he was superintendent and part owner of iron works in New Jersey, and of property in the interior of the province of New York, designated in a family letter of 1766 the *Mohawk Lands*.

There was the strongest bond of affection between Mrs. John Seton and her son William. When his affairs got settled after the Revolution, and he had a comfortable fortune, he often begged his mother to cross the ocean and come live with him; but the fear of the sea in a long, and perhaps dangerous voyage, and the many ties that bound her to England kept her there. In one of her letters she speaks of the dutiful affection of her children and grandchildren, who all strove to have her make her home with them.

The most interesting among our family papers is a series—unfortunately a broken one—of long and well-written letters from Mrs. Seton to her son in New York. Few of

them, comparatively, have come down to us—one hundred and twelve in all, although the correspondence was, as she says, “most assiduous from his first going out into the world.” The letters are numbered only from 1784 to 1797, between which dates sixty are missing.

Many other members of the family in England wrote at different times to Mr. Seton, but hardly a dozen of their letters are left. During the Revolutionary War the coast of North America was infested by privateers, and many English packet-ships were captured. A number, too, were lost in other ways. After my great-grandfather's death, and the subsequent disarrangement of his son's affairs, innumerable letters and documents were lost or destroyed. I learn from a chance expression in a letter of my grandfather, William Seton, that he lost a trunk containing valuable letters and papers while travelling in Italy in 1788; and I have often heard my father lament the destruction in the great fire of New York (in 1835) of several cases of letters, papers, pictures, and heirlooms which were stored in a house down town that was entirely consumed. No inventory exists of the things that were lost. Only it is known, from Mrs. Seton's letters to her son in New York, that she sent him at different times an old silver tea set with the family crest on it; portraits of herself and husband, described as good likenesses, but in “old-fashioned frames which are very ugly”; a number of miniatures—“all my little miniatures”; a memorandum book containing scraps of her poetry and notes of her early and her married life—“my memorandum book may amuse you in your leisure hours, with melancholy reflections on the past, as they often take full possession of my thoughts and convince me that there is no permanent happiness in this world”; many drawings by Lady Synnot, portraits and fancy sketches; and, finally, “a large family Bible,” which Mrs. Seton wrote she valued most. Apart from purely domestic matters contained in these letters,

there are numerous passages which show the writer to have been a woman of very good education, and a lover of Nature in all its aspects. There are also many homely remarks in the way of advice, encouragement, or dissent, as when she sends her son seven pounds of Scotch snuff, but says: "I have heard, my dear William, that you take too much snuff. For God's sake take as little as possible, for nothing hurts the health so much and generally makes one look quite stupified. You cannot remember it, but taking too much snuff was the first thing that hurt your dear father, and that makes me the more anxious that you should avoid it"; or, after chiding him for being too lenient with certain friends who had borrowed money from him and never paid it back: "We must guard against the designing part of the world, who so often deceive the innocent and unwary." Writing in August, 1786, to her son about giving his boys a good education and putting them to business, she says that "otherwise they will be brought up to their ruin, for poor Gentry is, in my opinion, the most melancholy situation in life." But that money was no Ideal of hers is shown in another letter, in which she says: "May you long live to enjoy every happiness and blessing that this world can give, and may I ever be thankful for being the mother of such a worthy son, whose virtues and integrity give me more heartfelt pleasure than if you were posses't of *millions without that honesty and upright heart** that you are blessed with." In 1783 Mrs. Seton visited the Synnots at their seat of Ballymoyer in Ireland, and in a letter to her son, dated September 25th, she says that she waited to write to him—

"till I could tell you of my safe arrival last Saturday, after a dangerous passage of fifty hours from Park Gate, where I was weather-bound for three weeks, nothing but storms and contrary wind; but as we have always good with evil, I was happy with my companions—a Miss Clark whom I knew

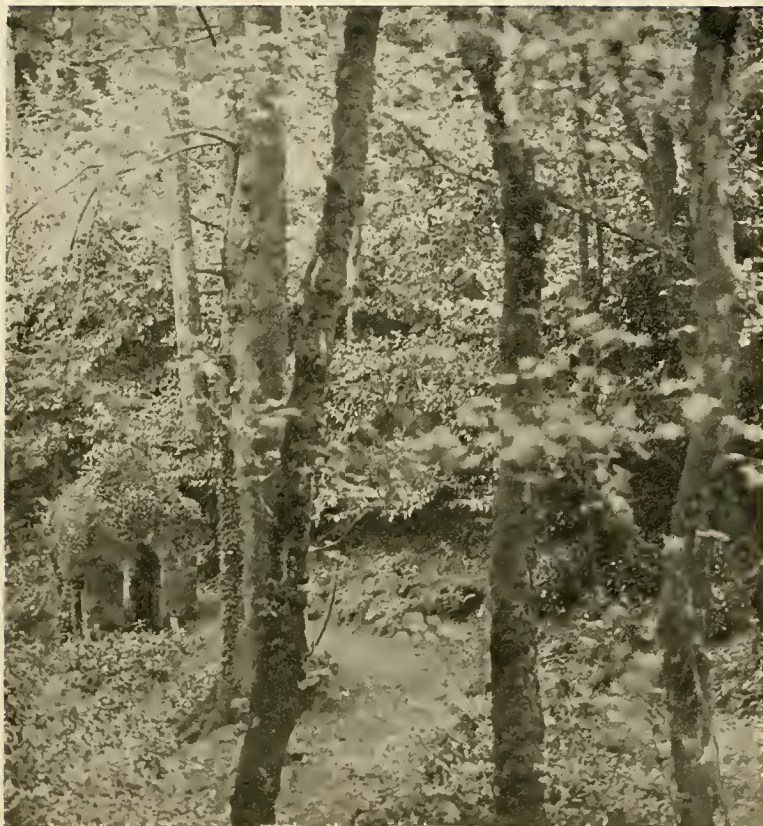
* Original underlined.

in London and a Capt. Russell of the Navy, a very polite, agreeable, pleasant man who studied everything to make us happy; and after three days at Park Gate, the King's yacht arrived, commanded by Sir Alexander Schomberg, an old acquaintance of mine, who was a very great acquisition to our party; and if it had not been that I could not hear from any of my friends, I should have spent my time well enough for both our captains were polite, cheerful men, and Sir Alexander insisted upon our going his passengers, which we were very glad to accept of, as we had good accommodation and every attention paid us that was possible. But although I had the Lord Lieutenant's state-room, yet I found in it no charm to keep me from a head-ache, nor from being violently sick, which I was the whole time and never out of bed, nor could not taste anything, but really thought I should have died. Thank God, I am now quite well, and hope I shall be the better of my sea-sickness. I am happy with my dear Jenny, who met me at his brother's half way to Ballymoyer, from which place although I have dated my letter, I have not yet reached, nor don't leave this till Sir Walter comes for us whom we expect the end of this week, for at present he is attending the Assizes, as you know he is High Sheriff of the county, and is much esteemed and beloved by all who know him. When I get to their house I shall be quite happy, for they have everything comfortable on their own estate, and are much beloved in the county and are blessed with the finest children you ever saw. I shall remain with them till Mr. Berry's return to England, and then they have promised to come and fetch me; but I scarce think that I shall ever have courage to cross the seas again. I travelled to Park Gate in Sir Walter Synnot's chariot, which I was bringing over to him, so that I travelled quite easy, and Captain Russell that was my companion had been sometime upon the American station, and lately commanded the *Hussar** frigate so that probably you know him. He is a very polite, agreeable man."

Writing from Ballymoyer on May 20, 1784, to her son, Mrs. Seton says: "Summer is come upon us all at once, and this is now the most delightful weather that ever was, and has made this place beautiful beyond description, and I enjoy it much; for when it is not too hot I walk, and sit for hours in the sweet Glen † by the purling brook, contemplating the many vicissitudes of my life, and find that I have more reason

* This vessel was lost during the Revolutionary War, after leaving New York, in attempting to pass Hell Gate and get to sea by the Sound.

† Mr. Mark Seton Synnot, now of Ballymoyer, sent me a beautiful photograph of this shady spot, called the *Fountain in the Glen*, which was a favorite retreat for Lady Synnot to retire to and read.



FOUNTAIN IN THE GLEN AT BALLYMOVER, IRELAND.

to be thankful than most people, for I have had many blessings and am favoured with the best of children. Few women of sixty-five years can boast of pleasures—mine are exquisite. In regard to my children and grandchildren, I am happy beyond expression; and hope they will live to feel the same delight in theirs that, thank God! I have experienced in mine.”

Sir Walter’s daughter Maria is often mentioned in Mrs.

Seton's interesting letters, and praised for her loving disposition, her beauty, her knowledge of French and Latin, music, drawing, painting, her graceful dancing, and other mental and social qualities. She died at seventeen, a little before the date fixed for her marriage with Colonel George Legard, the younger son of a Yorkshire baronet of old family:

The fairest rose in shortest time decays.—DRUMMOND.

Mary and Agnes Berry are constantly mentioned and always praised for their good looks, kindness of heart, and varied accomplishments. There is nothing in Mary Berry's Journal or in her correspondence published by Lady Theresa Lewis, about what to a young lady of fashion is one of the aspirations of her life—a Court presentation. Mrs. Seton briefly tells of it in a letter to her son, dated 29th February, 1792:

"We have been much alarmed on account of Sir Thomas (Cayley) who has been very ill, and is now determined on a journey to Bristol as soon as the weather will permit. It has been remarkably bad this winter, by which the dear Berrys have suffered much from the change of climate, for they came home to a very severe season, and have both been ill since. Thank God, they are now better and, since I wrote to you, have been presented at Court, as the circle they are in made it quite necessary. The Duchess of Argyle wished to have the pleasure of presenting them years ago, but Mr. Berry thought it would be attended with too great expense. Lord Orford, and other friends have, at last, persuaded them. Their dress was as plain as they possibly could make it, but it was very much admired. You see what trifles I write about to fill up my paper and make you acquainted with what is going on here."

William Seton became a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce in 1768, the year of its foundation. In 1765 he had been elected an officer of the Saint Andrew's Society of that city, and in 1786, the year of its foundation, of the Saint George's Society. He was an importing merchant of European and India goods, with his place of business at what was then known as Cruger's Dock. The two brothers, Charles and John Wilkes, came out to New York

in 1780, with letters of introduction to Mr. Seton, and they settled there permanently. Charles, writing to Miss Berry in England, thanks her "for having introduced me to the most agreeable house in New York"; and Captain Ralph Dundas, R.N., writes of him on March 2, 1782, that "he is liked and esteemed by every one, and not spending less than six guineas a day." He also owned property in Nova Scotia, called in old letters the "Halifax estate," which has since become very valuable, being estimated at £600,000, and is occupied by Government buildings.

It passed out of his hands by the mismanagement and fraud of his agent there during and after the Revolution. Some attempts were subsequently made to regain possession of this property, but I have heard that the English authorities condemned Mr. Seton for remaining in New York, and not leaving with the Refugees on the evacuation of the city. At the beginning of the Revolutionary troubles



MARIA SYNNOT, 1796.

he was a member of the Committee of One Hundred elected May 1, 1775, to control the affairs of the city and county of New York. He was strongly attached by education, friendships, and family connection to the cause of the Mother Country in her dispute with the Colonies, but he never made himself odious by a fanatical loyalty. Although he lost some outlying property, he was not further molested when the American troops entered the city. He then became a citizen of the Republic, and the esteem in which he was held in the community, notwithstanding his previous record, was observed by a traveller of some distinction who visited New York in 1788, J. P. Brissot de Warville, in his *Nouveau Voyage dans les États-Unis*. He was a man of very generous

feelings, and it is for services rendered at considerable risk to himself that the French political economist and traveller, Saint Jean de Crèveœur, addressed to him the *Lettres d'un Cultivateur Américain* (1770-1781).^{*} His business was ruined during the Revolution, and in 1779 he became a Notary Public—the last one under the royal government—and his silver notarial seal, engraved with the Seton arms, is preserved among our heirlooms. He was a friend of the unfortunate Major André, whose will he witnessed, and a particular friend

and distant relative of the Hon. Andrew Elliot, Superintendent of the Port and godfather to two of Mr. Seton's sons. They both died in infancy. When Mr. Elliot returned to England, after the British evacuation of New York, he wrote a beautiful letter to Mrs. Seton about her son, whom he so loved and admired. During the Revolution armed packets ran be-



WILLIAM SETON'S NOTARIAL
SEAL.

tween Falmouth and New York; but as early as 1783, as soon as the war was over, a line of packet-ships, five in number, was established to make monthly trips to the port of L'Orient in France. The Consul-General of France at New York had the direction of the enterprise, but the immediate supervision was intrusted to Mr. Seton, who was a travelled man and understood French. He was also one of the founders and the first Cashier of the Bank of New York in 1784, and would undoubtedly, but for political reasons,

^{*}Crèveœur's *Life* was published by his great-grandson a few years ago; and in a copy presented to my brother, the author wrote: *Je suis très heureux d'offrir ce livre à M. William Seton, descendant de l'ami dévoué de mon bisaïeul.*

have been the first President. He founded about the same time the "great house of Seton, Maitland & Co." (at 61 Stone Street), and I gather from old letters and papers that the business of the firm extended to London, Hamburg, Leghorn, Barcelona, Malaga, and the West Indies—Saint Eustatius, Saint Croix, Martinique. After the Revolution, Mr. Seton's affairs began once more to prosper. He was very hospitable and entertained many distinguished people at his house in Hanover Square. Henry Dommett has this to say of him in his *History of the Bank of New York, 1784-1884*:

"He was especially fitted for the office of cashier of the bank by his sterling business qualifications, his diligent, precise, and methodical habits, and by an amiability and courtesy which made him very popular. His appointment as an officer of the bank, with General McDougal, the early leader of the 'Sons of Liberty,' and a distinguished officer of the Revolution, shows the esteem in which Mr. Seton was held by the liberal party at the close of the war."

My great-uncle, Samuel Seton, who died in 1869 at the age of eighty, retaining a tenacious memory to the last, wrote a long letter the year before his death, in which he told me many of his early recollections. Coming to the French exiles, he says of Talleyrand: "I remember him well, although I was but a child of five or six years. He was very intimate at our house, and we often of summer evenings sat out, at the door, on the stone steps, he taking me on his knees. A little French colored boy used to come with pop-corn, and we very often bought some, and while we eat it Talleyrand would encourage him to dance on the street and sing revolutionary songs. Talleyrand dressed in black, and wore knee-breeches and black silk stockings. He was fond of me, and wanted me later to be sent to him, in France, to be educated. One of his feet was deformed, and he limped a little. Sometimes when we sat there at early evening processions came past of French citizens, with banners and a large tree with colored apples, each with a motto attached, and they singing the

‘Marseillaise.’ This is all I remember of the ex-Bishop of Autun.”

Mrs. John Seton died on August 2, 1797, in her seventy-ninth year. I have read among the Seton papers at High Hall, the seat of the Cayleys, a beautiful and touching letter to Lady Cayley (Isabella Seton that was) from her brother, William Seton, in New York, in answer to one announcing the news of their mother’s death. How united, although separated by such distances—so much greater in those days than in these—the family had always been, is gathered from this passage of the letter: “Yes, my dearest Bell, I will continue to write to you, and to cherish the correspondence as the last links of that fondly affectionate happiness which our dear, departed parent enjoyed so much to behold and to contribute to.” In 1784 Mr. Seton acquired a small country place at Bloomingdale, several miles from what was then the city of New York, on the west side of the island of Manhattan, about where Seventy-eighth Street is now. In old letters it is sometimes called *Craigdon* and sometimes *Craggdon*. His mother, writing to him about it in that year, recalls an occupation of his boyhood at Kirkbridge in Yorkshire. “I am delighted that you have a garden to your house, as it will be the means of procuring you health, by the pleasure you will take in cultivating your fruits and flowers, in which you used to take great delight.”

William Seton married, on the 2d of March, 1767, REBECCA, eldest daughter of Richard Curzon, Esq., of New York. Mr. Curzon belonged to a very ancient English family, the Curzons of *Waterperry*, Oxfordshire. He was born in 1726, the only son of John, third son of Sir John Curzon (second baronet), who is erroneously stated, in *Burke’s Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*, to have died unmarried.*

* This ancient family was seated at Kedleston as early as the reign of Henry I. It is said to be of Breton origin, and descended from Geraline,

Curzon of Parham Park succeeded in right of his mother, since Shirley's book was published, to the Barony of *ZOUCHE of Haryngworth*, created in 1308. Curzon of Kedleston, now the head of the family, was created a Baronet in 1641, and Baron Scarsdale in 1761. The heir to the title was raised to the Peerage in 1898, on being named Viceroy of India. His wife is an American.

Richard Curzon came out to New York in 1747, recommended to the Governor of the Province, and soon afterward married Elizabeth-Rebecca Beker, who had money. Her father was of a Dutch family, and lived near New York on a large grazing-farm which he owned. Mr. Richard Curzon had three daughters and two sons. Of the former, Rebecca and Anna-Maria married, successively, William Seton; Elizabeth married James Farquhar * of New York. Of the latter, Samuel died unmarried, and Richard (2) married Elizabeth Moale, of Baltimore, where he settled. Richard Curzon had three children by this marriage, one son and two daughters: Samuel, who died in Baltimore, of yellow fever, unmarried; (1.) Elizabeth-Rebecca-Beker Curzon, who married Samuel Hoffman, of Franklin Street, Baltimore, and had Samuel-Curzon Hoffman, who married Eliza Lawrence Dallam, by whom he had Richard-Curzon Hoffman and Henrietta McTier Hoffman; Sophia-Latimer Hoffman, who married Louis MacLane, of Delaware; Dora Hoffman, unmarried, was engaged to the

a great benefactor to the Abbey of Abingdon, in Berkshire, in which county the Curzons held land soon after the Conquest. Younger branches: Curzon, Earl Howe, 1821; Curzon of Parham, Sussex. Extinct branches: Curzon of Croxhall and Waterperry, Co. Oxford, and of Letheringset, Norfolk. Arms—*Argent*, a bend *sable*, charged with three popinjays *or*, collared *gules*, borne by Roger Curzon in the reign of Richard II. Sir John Curzoun bore *argent*, a bend *gules* bezantée, in that of Edward II.—EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY: *Noble and Gentle Men of England*, 1860.

* My father's cousin, the late General Farquhar Barry, of the Artillery Corps, U.S.A., a distinguished officer of the Civil War, was a grandson of this marriage.

gallant General McPherson, U.S.A., who was killed before Atlanta. (II.) Ellin-Moale Curzon,* married Samuel Poultney, and had Walter-Curzon Poultney, of Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, now living; Thomas Poultney, married and had issue; Eugene Poultney, married and had issue.

The Baronetcy of Curzon of Waterperry was dormant for two generations in the American branch. It is now extinct.



JOHN CURZON SETON, 1798.

William Seton, Esq., of New York, is what is technically called the Heir of Line of that once distinguished family. Henry-John Philip Roper-Curzon, Lord Teynham, is the Heir of Entail, his great-grand father, Henry-Francis Roper, fourteenth baron, having assumed, by royal license, the additional name and arms of

Curzon upon inheriting the estate of Waterperry, County Oxford.

An interesting book of *Travels in India and America One Hundred Years Ago*, by Thomas Twining, was published in London in 1893. The author was in Baltimore on May 5, 1796, and says: "Called upon Mr. Curzon. Singular particulars of his family"; and adds in a note: "My Journal does not state these particulars, and I have entirely forgotten them." I am sorry, but I have no doubt that they related to his right to the baronetcy.

* Ellin is a family name derived through the Norths, of early distinction in Baltimore.

By his first marriage William Seton had four sons and one daughter:

William, of whom hereafter.

James, of whom hereafter.

John, married a lady named Wise, and lived at a place called "Summerhill," near Alexandria, in Virginia. He was a handsome man, but of a melancholy disposition, which is reflected in his face. There is a portrait of him in the aristocratic St. Memin collection. He left, at his death, a widow and two daughters. The widow married a Mr. Gorham of Boston. Of the two daughters I find no mention after 1817. I have understood that they were defrauded of their property.

Henry, a Lieutenant, U.S.N., died young and unmarried.

Anna Maria, "a great beauty in society one hundred years ago, when New York was the seat of Congress, and gay with the first administration of Washington." She married, at eighteen (24th November, 1790), Hon. John Middleton Vining, of Delaware, a Senator of the United States and a very distinguished man. They had issue, two sons:

Benjamin, graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1818. Appointed third Lieutenant of Ordnance, July 24, 1818, and Second Lieutenant of the First Artillery, June 1, 1821. Died while on duty at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, in 1822, unmarried.

William-Henry, a brilliant member of the Delaware Bar, a traveller and poet. Died unmarried. He was the last of his family.

Mr. Seton married, secondly, Anna Maria Curzon. This marriage with a deceased wife's sister could not be performed in New York, where the law of the Church of England was in force, but took place "on the 29th day of November,

1776, at Brunswick, in New Jersey," before a Presbyterian clergyman.

By this marriage he had:

Samuel,	} of whom hereafter.
Edward Augustus,	
Charlotte,	
Elizabeth,	
Mary,	
Rebecca,	
Henrietta,	
Cecilia,	

In a memorandum made by William Seton on July 15, 1791, he says of a family reunion, that they sat down, that day, fifteen to dinner, "and all, thank God, in perfect health, and passed a day together that filled my heart with the sincerest gratitude to that Omnipotent Being who has granted me the blessing of having such a family, not one of which has ever, to this day, given me the least uneasiness."

All his children were distinguished for their tallness and good looks.

William Seton was a large and handsome man of dignified presence and benevolent features, and extremely neat in his personal attire. My great-uncle, Samuel Seton, has told me how careful he was, in taking snuff, not to let any of it drop on his shirt frills or vest. His family have a good portrait of him, painted shortly before his death by that eminent American artist, Gilbert Stuart. Mr. Seton died at what, for his family, was an early age, on the 9th of June, 1798, and is buried in Trinity Churchyard.

I find among our papers the following brief eulogy of my great-grandfather, in a lady's handwriting, which looks as if it were a copy of an Obituary Notice in the newspaper:

"Died at New York on the 9th of June 1798, William Seton Esqr. in the 52d. year of his age, a native of Great Britain & a resident of America



Amos.
Aug. 28th Sep. 1796. —

for upwards of thirty years. From his earliest youth his time was occupied by pursuits of commerce in which he soon acquired and invariably preserved the fairest reputation—with the most persevering assiduity he combined the most generous conduct. Never addicted to Vice of any kind nor to Pride nor to Ostentation, his heart was replete with every Virtue, a real friend, and a friend to mankind his whole life was marked uniformly by sincerity of Heart, dignity of Manners, and Active Liberality of Mind. But alas he is no more! the destitute Orphan is deprived of its kindest Patron, the helpless widow, and the unfortunate of their best friend—his afflicted children of an indulgent & beloved Parent, and the Community of a citizen who gained and never lost their confidence and approbation, their affection & esteem, and one they will never cease to lament.”

The following letter of his eldest son's wife to Lady Cayley, in England, gives some account of his death and of the family which I find nowhere else. Sir Digby Cayley showed me this letter and other “Seton Papers” at High Hall in 1861, but I am indebted for a copy of it to Mr. Cayley of *Wydale*.

(Elizabeth Seton to Lady Cayley.)

“NEW YORK, 6th July, 1798.

“My Dear Aunt Cayley,—We received your letter, number two, written to our dear father, the third of April last, and happy should I be were it in my power to offer you the kind, affectionate consolations contained in it. But, alas! we have every thing to lament and deplore, without one source of comfort but that submission to the Disposer of all events, which we know is our duty to make, even when our heart is rent with anguish. And how shall I rend yours, and what can I say to prepare your mind for the sad and distressing intelligence that our beloved, our best of parents is no more. You have heard of the melancholy accident he met with on the 25th of January, by a fall at his door, since which he has never been free from pain, and almost constantly confined to his room, except now and then riding to his country-seat for exercise, of which, unfortunately, he had never been in the habit of taking enough. His complaint increased rapidly with the warm season, and he so entirely lost his spirits as to think himself in danger some weeks before the event took place. He died on the 9th of June, after several hours of severe pain, but possessing his senses to the last; and with him we have lost every hope of fortune, prosperity, and comfort, and shall feel his loss irreparably.

“Perhaps there never was an instance of any person being so universally loved and lamented.

“Nearly five hundred people attended him to the grave, chiefly dressed in black, with every mark of unaffected sorrow. Those in the higher station of

life regretting a friend and social companion, the poor mourning a father and benefactor, always their resource in misfortune and assistant in every difficulty ; and by us his children, who were accustomed constantly to receive his dearest affection and to look up to him as the soul of our existence, his loss will be forever severely felt and deplored. My dear William, who was his favorite and beloved child, his partner in business, and the one in whom he placed every confidence and trust, feels himself at once the provider and head of a numerous family. Rebecca is the eldest daughter unmarried, and there are six younger than herself ; but our beloved father brought up his family in such harmony and affection, and they have such good and amiable dispositions, that if William can but make them some comfortable maintenance, we shall yet have hopes of domestic enjoyment when the family gets in some degree settled ; but in these hours of sorrow I have not only my poor husband's spirits to support, but also to sustain myself : expecting every day the birth of another little dependent in addition to our son and daughter. How my William has gone through such severe trials and anguish of heart as our heavy loss has caused him, being the one particularly upon whom the weight of the blow has fallen, is only to be accounted for by referring everything to Him who gives us power to support those evils which every human being must endure his portion of.

“As yet his health has not suffered much, but his mind is in a state scarcely to be endured ; for besides our family sorrow, the situation of our affairs with the French and the constant preparation for war makes every one uncertain how long they may be permitted to enjoy their homes, or what their future prospects may be. Our dear father unfortunately did not leave a will, which places my husband in a difficult and uncomfortable situation with respect to his property, which, though not very great, may with William's industry and unremitting care prove sufficient to maintain and educate a numerous family, if he can but collect and arrange it. But in these melancholy times everything is scattered and uncertain, and all we can do is to keep united, and contribute as much as we can to each other's happiness, of which, Heaven knows, we expect but little and have, until time which softens all things shall reconcile or rather accustom us to a change which is now the loss of all we valued most. My William's unremitting labor in the arrangement of the business of the House, which is very extensive, and the distressing confusion and perplexity of his mind at this moment, prevents his having the power to write to you himself, though he very much wishes it, but the constant expression of his affection and grateful remembrance of your goodness to him, when he was with you, have so familiarized me with the idea of your family, that I hope it will be a sufficient excuse for the manner in which I have ventured to write ; and he anxiously wishes that you will from time to time have the goodness to let him hear from you, as everything which interests you will be interesting to us and to him particularly, who knows and remembers every branch of your family so well. When circumstances of hurry or necessity prevent his answering your letters,

I can promise that they shall not remain unanswered ; I am always happy to be his scribe, and should be particularly so in this case. Our father received a letter a week or two before his death from Lady Synnot, announcing the death of Mrs. George Seton, which was a very great shock to him, as likewise that of our grandmother : for though he could not again expect to see her, her letters and the certainty of her fond affection were his greatest pleasures. And in short he had no other gratifications than the happiness and welfare of all his numerous friends and relatives ; and although we who were in the constant enjoyment of his affections have reason most to feel his loss, there are many who sincerely participate our sorrow who only knew him for his virtues, and to you, my dear aunt, who so well knew and esteemed them I can not help again lamenting that the sad tidings should come from my pen. My William desires his affectionate regards to your self and Lady Synnot and Sir Walter, and the rest of the family, in which I beg leave sincerely to join, and remain

“Yours most truly,

“E. A. SETON.”

“To Dowager Lady Cayley, at Sir Walter Synnot's, Dublin, or (Ballymoyer), Newry, Ireland.”

IV. WILLIAM SETON, Esq., of New York, Representative of Parbroath. William Seton, eldest son of William Seton and Rebecca Curzon, was born at sea on board the ship *Edward*, on 20th April, 1768, as his parents were returning to America from a visit to England made shortly after their marriage. One of his sponsors at baptism in the Protestant Episcopal Church, on the 8th of May following, was William Magee, of London, whose proxy was John Alsop of New York. During his father's lifetime he was always known as William Magee Seton, or oftener as William M. Seton. I know nothing about Mr. Magee, except that he was married, had no children, was rich, and was not related to the Setons. On his death he left his godson a legacy of £1,000, and one of £1,500 to his father. I suspect that he owed a debt of some kind to old Mr. John Seton, who was at one time, as we have seen, in business in London, and, like all the family, was generous and open-handed, almost foolishly so.

Young William was sent to England for his education when

he was only ten, and spent several years at a private school in Richmond, near London, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Rose. His vacations were kept with his relatives, and mostly with the Berrys. His beauty and sweetness of disposition, but without much application to his books, were often mentioned in letters to his father. The earliest letter of the boy which I find among our papers is one written to old Mrs. Seton, without year, but which I judge was about 1780. *Eton* Street should be *Eaton* Street. The Mr. Mann mentioned is probably James Mann, Esq., who married the eldest daughter of his cousin, Sir Horace Mann, M.P., a friend of the Berrys. Although the spelling of some words is poor, the writing is fair, and the composition of unaffected simplicity.

“PIMLICO, ETON STREET, December the 21.

“Dear Grandma :

“I got to my Uncle's very well, he says he is very glad you sent me so soon, as I can spend two or three days with him, as I can't go to my Aunt Whittle till after Christmas day, for her two sons are both come from school, & there will be no room for me, till my Cousin Richard goes to Ipswich, where he goes a day or two after Christmas. I shall go to see my Aunt Whittle tomorrow if it is a fine day.

“Mr. Mann was so good as to take me to see the House of Lords where I saw the King sitting upon the Throne with a crown upon his head, & I saw all the Lords dressed in their Robes & heard the bill read over to the King & answered by another man in French, but I only heard the last that was, *Le Roi dit* ; the King consents. I stood close to the King upon the lower step of the Throne, & I saw that famous man lord North ; but I think of all the lords I ever saw he was shabiest, he had on a nasty old brown coat & a blue ribbon & all the other lords was dressed in fine robes, & there were the Bishops & the Bishop of Gloucester read Prayers a little before the King came in, which at first made me think it was a church but they told me it was the custom to read Prayers always before they went to business. I think the best looking lord that was there was lord Boston, he was quite a young man & a very good looking man ; & as soon as the King went into the robing room I went and followed him where I saw him take off his Crown. I went close to the crown which was a very handsome one. From there, I went St. James' Park, where I saw the King again in the state coach with eight Horses which was a very noble sight. I forgot to tell you there was four Ladies in the House of Lords. The duke of Cumberland was there & the Prince of Wales was not.

"The Post goes off here at eleven O'clock & that but once a day, which makes me in such a hurry, as you may see by my writing. Give my love to Peggy, for my letter must go directly to the Post.

"I am,

"Your affectionate grandson,

"WM. SETON."

William left school at sixteen, and afterward travelled for several years—sometimes alone, sometimes with one of the Curzons—in Holland, France, Italy, and Spain. His letters home and a Journal he kept are very interesting reading. Like many of his Scotch ancestors, he was devoted to poetry and music. He was a skilful player on the violin, and the possessor of the only genuine *Stradivarius* in New York a hundred years ago, which he brought from Cremona with the utmost care, never letting it out of his sight until he got back to America. He was a popular member in this city of the Columbian Anacreontic Society, and his beautifully engraved silver badge is now in our possession. He was in partnership with his father as one of the firm of Seton, Maitland & Company. On the 25th January, 1794, he was married, by Bishop Provoost, to Elizabeth-Ann Bayley, who was born in the city of New York on the 28th August, 1774, the younger of the two daughters of Richard Bayley, M.D., and of Catharine Charlton, whose father was rector of Saint Andrew's Church at Richmond on Staten Island. The facilities for female education were then few in her native city, but of such as offered she made a good use, and while still young learned music, French, and drawing. She was very fond of reading: her manuscript books, in which she made extracts from her favorite authors, show that they were chiefly serious writers, treating historical and religious subjects.

The Bayley family has made its mark in America as having produced Richard Bayley, M.D., who, after studying medicine under the celebrated Dr. Hunter in London, began life as staff-surgeon to General Sir Guy Carleton in New York, and

became the most eminent physician of his day in America; Elizabeth Seton, his daughter, Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, and better known as "Mother Seton"; James Roosevelt Bayley, his grandson, first Bishop of Newark and eighth Archbishop of Baltimore.

The first of the family to come to the Colonies was William Bayley,* a younger son of the Bayleys of Hoddeston, in Hertfordshire, England, whose arms were *argent*, three torteaux—two and one, a chief *gules*. He sailed from Lynn Regis for New York in 1726. He was a gentleman of means and education, and came originally only on his travels, but falling in love with Susanna, the beautiful daughter of William Le Compte, or *Le Conte* as he always wrote it, of the French settlement at New Rochelle, New York, he married her and remained here. His wife's family is said, in Baird's *History of the Huguenot Emigration to America* (II., p. 75), to derive from Guillaume le Conte, who was born in Rouen, March 6, 1659, and died in New York in 1720. There is a family tradition that he was descended on his mother's or grandmother's side from the Barons of Nonant. He married, February 17, 1701, Margaret de Valteau, daughter of Pierre Joyeux de Valteau, of the Island of Martinique, who died soon after, leaving one child, a son called William, born December 3, 1702.†

William married Anne Besly, of New Rochelle, and had two daughters, the younger of whom married, as above, William Bayley. Mr. Bayley had two sons by this marriage:

* Hackney coaches were first brought into use, in London, in 1634 by a Captain Bayley.

† There is reason to believe that he was married twice; and that his first wife was Grace, daughter of George Walrond, Esq., of the Island of Barbadoes, whose father, a distinguished Royalist commander in the Civil War in England, had been created in 1653, by Philip IV., King of Spain, Marquis de Vallado, etc. The title continues in the family, and is found among other "Foreign Titles of Nobility" at the end of Burke's *Peerage*.

Richard, born at Fairfield, Connecticut, about 1744,* and William, born at New Rochelle, August 8, 1745.

Richard Bayley married twice: first, in 1767, Catharine, daughter of Rev. Richard Charlton and Mary Bayeux, his wife. Mrs. Richard Bayley died at Newtown, Long Island, in May, 1777, leaving two daughters, the younger of whom, Elizabeth-Ann, married William Seton. By his second marriage, with Charlotte Barclay, June 16, 1778, daughter of Andrew Barclay and Helen Roosevelt, he had a large family of sons and daughters, of whom Guy-Carleton, born 1786, married Grace Roosevelt, November 4, 1813. Their eldest son, and Mother Seton's nephew by the half-blood, was the late Archbishop Bayley.

The married life of the young couple was very happy, and Elizabeth Seton more than justified the anticipations expressed in a charming letter from old Mrs. Seton on their engagement being announced. She endeared herself also to her father-in-law, to whom she immediately became a cherished object of hope and love. I can furnish no better proof of the confidence and affection in which she was held than the following letter:

“NEW YORK, Feb. 28th. 1796.

“My Dear Eliza,—I have found the book of my mother's which William wished to send to you, and with it I found certain letters preserved by the person to whom they were addressed, I trust from the fondest affection to the person by whom they were written. I believe no one but she has ever seen them, and as they lay open my whole soul at a moment of doubt, affection, grief, and every passion that could shake the human mind, they are only fit for the eye of an affectionate child, as ready to forgive the weakness of the parent, as to approve of any congenial sentiment that the various passions working upon a feeling heart may have created. You are the first of my children to whom I have submitted the perusal of them, and I request you will return them to me unsullied by the eye of impertinent curiosity. Let no one look at them. The parental affection I ever felt for my dear William, your husband, you will find strongly marked in every letter. This

* The church records and registers were burnt during the Revolution, hence the uncertainty of the date.

will give you pleasure ; but when I add that this affection has increased ever since, I think every page where I mention him will be doubly dear to you. That you may long, very long enjoy every blessing together, is the sincere prayer of your affectionate and fond father,

“WM. SETON.”

The young people lived at first with their father at No. 65 Stone Street, having for their immediate neighbors John



From Own E. A. Seton.

1794.

Wilkes, Cadwallader Colden, and Dr. Samuel Provoost, first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York. In a letter of William Seton to his wife, written from Philadelphia in July, 1794, he says: “I showed my friends your portrait, and many agreeable things were said, for which I felt greatly flattered, but let them know that the artist, although a Frenchman, had not at all flattered you.” The

miniature is encircled by a rim of solid gold, and behind, under a thick crystal, is a circlet of gold, within which, resting on a blue and gold enamel background, is a lock of her husband's hair held together by a small clasp of pearls. In the larger circle around this is a delicate braid of her own hair. Not the painting alone, but the setting, is a perfect specimen of French good taste, which the accompanying illustration does not reproduce.



Your affectionate Son
Wm Verelsteyn.

In the fall of this year Mr. Seton and his wife moved into their own house, No. 8 State Street, near the Battery, in what was then the most airy, healthful, and pleasant part of the city, also one of the most fashionable quarters. William Seton was the handsomest man in New York, and one of the few who was well connected in Great Britain and possessed the advantages of foreign travel. The portrait which we have of him, and which is here reproduced, is said to have been painted by Malbone; and he certainly was a rare subject for such an artist.

On the 3d of May, 1795, their first child, Anna-Maria, was born. Writing in 1796 to a friend at Paris, Mrs. Seton says of this child (who lived to become one of the pioneers and early heroines of Saint Joseph's at Emmitsburg):

“Respecting a certain pair of eyes, they are much nearer black than any other color, which with a very small nose and mouth, dimpled cheeks and chin, rosy face and never-ceasing animation form an object rather too interesting for my pen. Her grandfather Bayley will tell you that he sees more sense, intelligence, and inquiry in that little face than any other in the world; that he can converse more with her than with any woman in New York. In short, she is her mother's own daughter, and you may be sure her father's pride. So some little beings are born to be treasured, while others are treated with less attention by those who give them birth than they receive from hirelings. But often those who want the fostering, indulgent bosom of a parent to rest on, get cheerfully through the world, whilst the child of hope will have its prospects darkened by unthought-of disappointments. But there is a Providence which never sleeps.”

Again, in 1797, she writes: “Anna-Maria is close beside me, and I will cut for you a lock of the beautiful hair that curls in a hundred ringlets on her head. She is one of the loveliest beings ever beheld.” Mr. and Mrs. Seton visited Philadelphia in the month of May, 1796; and while Mrs. Seton, fatigued with the journey across New Jersey, remained with her friend Mrs. Julia Scott, *née* Sitgreaves, her husband and a sister went to visit the Vinings at their country seat, “The Oakes,” near Dover, the Capital of Delaware.

(William Seton to his wife.)

"OAKES," NEAR DOVER, 15th May, 1796.

"It is very strange that people who have lived all their lives in a city should not know the way out. From the directions Mrs. S. gave us we went at least one mile and a half out of our way, and did not get to Chester until nine o'clock. The morning was remarkably fine, and nothing but my dear wife was wanting to make the ride one of the most delightful imaginable. We dined with old Mrs. Vining, at Wilmington (she would have accompanied us here had she received Mr. W.'s letter), and slept at night at the *Red Lyon*, which is upwards of forty miles from the capital. The entertainment was excellent, and we left at six o'clock in the morning precisely, and arrived here at five yesterday afternoon. Maria and her husband were just setting off to meet us, and most exceedingly glad to see us, but much disappointed at finding you were not with us; in fact they expected not only you but our darling Anna, and had prepared to receive us all. Their house is a most charming one, surrounded by beautiful and extensive woods, a garden that abounds with every fruit and flower, the situation quite retired and everything about it comfortable. Each moment that passes makes me regret more and more you are not with us. They are very pressing for me to stay, but I am still determined to start on Tuesday, and I hope you will be prepared to leave for New York on Saturday. Our horses go charmingly, and, if the road is good, I think we shall get back easily in two days and a half. Persuade Mrs. S. to wait for us, if you can, and do not omit to write to my father by the post."

New York at this time was a city of less than fifty thousand inhabitants, but there was good society and much gayety there. I reproduce a little article which appeared from my pen a few years ago, and will only add that the Assembly Balls of which I wrote were what the Patriarchs' Balls became at a much later date, only they were far more select.

"OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHERS' BALLS.

"WHIGS AND TORIES—HOW THEY DANCED TOGETHER.

"Mandeville Mower's interesting but comparatively modern Reminiscences of 'The Balls of Old,' in last week's *Home Journal*, show how present New York society has moved in untraditional directions. Verily, in the words of Horace, writing on the 'Art of Poetry':

"'As forests change their foliage year by year,
Leaves, that come first, first fall and disappear;
So antique names die out, and in their room
Others spring up, of vigorous growth and bloom.'

"I send copies of two printed invitations, found by me in one of the many drawers of a once elegant writing-desk, imported from France by my great-grandfather, in the last century :

" ' Commemoration Ball,
The honor of ———

Company is requested on Wednesday evening, the 22d
of February, to celebrate the Birth of GEORGE WASHINGTON,
President of the United States.

Managers :

James Farquhar,	William Seton,
James Scott,	Aquila Giles.
New York, 1797.'	

"It is a stiff piece of white pasteboard card, five inches long by three wide. All the lettering and scroll border are conspicuously in red. The other is of same size and material, but the lettering and elaborate border are in plain black. It reads as follows :

" ' CITY ASSEMBLY.
ADMIT FOR THE NIGHT.

Managers :

James Farquhar,	W. M. Seton,
Jacob Morton,	J. R. Livingston,
Aquila Giles,	Will. Armstrong.

,1797.
New York.'

"It is remarkable that five of these six names, most prominent in New York society one hundred years ago, are of Scotch origin. The first invitation was of a mixed or politico-social character, and the red scroll border is 'broken' at rare intervals—as if anything heraldic were a delicate subject—by tiny stars—in compliment to the chief of the nation, and by fleurs-de-llys in compliment, perhaps, to the France of the Bourbons which had passed away, but which Federalist gentlemen would still recognize, were it only in protest of the insolent Jacobin Citizen Genet and his faction in our country : for New York was, at this period, the refuge of many French *émigrés*—and these exiles were generally nobles. The second invitation was of a purely social character, and I discover in it one of the first faint efforts to introduce again to society the family arms of colonial days, and an attempt moreover to blend, in doing so, the two social elements—Patriots and Loyalists—which had been recently very much estranged from one another.

"Of these six managers the two recognized social leaders were Livingston and Seton, both descended from Scotch titled families ; but one the social representative of the victorious party, the other of the defeated adherents of the British government. Hence we find large gilly-flowers, the

well-known device of the patriotic Livingstons, at the four corners of the ornamental border of the invitation card, and a row of crescents, the equally well-known device of the aristocratic Setons on the upper line. In conjunction with these crescents are diminutive gilly-flowers, which strengthens the opinion that the design of the invitation card was deliberately meant to symbolize the social harmony which then began and has continued ever since.

"Although a modern writer on the condition of the colonies says bitterly that 'the upper classes were generally Tories,' I may add that those of them who remained after the Revolution became thorough Americans. Yet, whoever knows *la vie intime* of our most patriotic old New York families knows also that, discreetly hidden away from the public, there exists—merely as a matter of sentiment and purely from the social point of view—a certain pride in a Loyalist ancestor, or a quiet appreciation of some British connection in 1776; for it is undeniable that the Revolution introduced a new set of people into New York society, just as, later, Money introduced a still newer one."

A very sweet and enduring friendship sprang up between Mrs. Seton and her sister-in-law, Rebecca, who was born on December 20, 1780. She was a beautiful character, and I have no doubt but that, had she lived, she would have entered the Catholic Church too. Mrs. Seton, writing to a bosom friend in 1798, says of her: "Rebecca is without exception the most truly amiable young woman I ever knew, and does honor to the memory of my poor father [in-law] who was her director in everything. Her society is a source of pleasure to me, such as is altogether new and unexpected; for until I was under the same roof I always thought her an uninformed girl with many good qualities very much neglected. But I find the contrary every day."

The following letter to Rebecca is interesting:

"CRAGGDON, 3d August, 1799.

"I have often told you, my Rebecca, that I had determined never again to allow myself the enjoyment of any affection beyond the bounds of moderation, but, really, your loving letters, the remembrance of the past hours, and the thousand thoughts of you that strike me every day at this place, make it no easy matter to restrain my expressions when I write to you. I never busy about the house, or dress the flower-pots or walk in the garden, but you are as much my companion as if you were actually near me; and

last evening finding myself by the garden wall at the spot whereon we used to stand at sunset last fall, anticipating in our pleasant talk what we would do this summer, I was so struck by the recollection and the uncertainty of when I should see you again, that I had a hearty crying spell, which is not a very common thing with me, nor do I suppose would have happened but that I have ever since the first moment you left me had a strong presentiment that our separation was for a long while. My spirits, too, were very much depressed by a letter I received from Aunt Cayley, with a box containing the souvenirs of her mother. One is her old fashioned watch, which is for Mrs. Andrew Seton; another is the picture of our father, and is left to his eldest unmarried daughter, consequently is yours, my love. I suppose you remember the portrait; it was painted by Ramage, and sent to your grandmother in the year ninety. I am to deliver it in your own hands is the direction.

"How is my dear little Cecilia? Write me every particular; but not if it hurts your chest, for I know you have many to write to, and I would receive no pleasure from your letters if I thought you were in pain while writing. Heaven preserve my dear Rebecca, and restore her to her affectionate sister,

E. A. SETON."

And as a specimen of Rebecca's style, I subjoin the following, written to Elizabeth from Dover, in Delaware, while on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Vining:

"Dec. 27th, 1799.

"I retire from the bustle of company to devote some time to my ever dear sister. It seems an age since I heard from her. Why is she so long silent? A letter from Aunt Farquhar mentions your being at the theater, so that you are well; I shall therefore expect to hear from you soon. You must feel in a measure lost without the girls, after being with you so long, and quite quiet, no doubt, for they must have made a great uproar. I have had many letters from them since their return to Brunswick, and they write in perfect ecstasy at the happy hours they passed at home, which delighted me. My little Anna must have grown almost out of my recollection. Pray don't let her forget her godmother. What are your plans for New Year's day? Do you all dine together as usual? John is still in Baltimore, and mentioned in his last letter that if I had the wish to go on to New York this winter, or thought I could stand the weather and bad roads he would willingly escort me. But really, dear sister, it would be madness to attempt such a thing. There are so many inconveniences attending a like journey in the depth of winter, that much as I desire to see you all I will give it up and remain here until spring. The affectionate attention of the family prevents me from regretting I am absent from home—at least as much as I otherwise would. We now and then have little family parties, but do not live, as in New York, in a continual round of dissipation. My Cecilia has

improved most astonishingly since you saw her. She has grown quite tall and rosy, and shall not, if I can help it, lose anything by being kept away from school. She reads charmingly, is now going through the 'Economy of Human Life,' and can hem a handkerchief. It is an occupation for me to teach her. She is always talking of Anna. Remember me with affection to all the family.

Your loving sister,

"REBECCA SETON."

The following letter to Lady Cayley from Mrs. Seton gives many little particulars of the family :

"NEW YORK, December, 1799.

"My first letter was written from Wall Street, from which we were driven by the yellow fever. My William was the only one of the family who suffered in the least ; which, as it is so numerous, was almost a miracle. We did not dare to venture to town as inhabitants, until the first of November, when we removed immediately to the family house in Stone Street. My husband, with the general consent of the family, sold the greater part of the furniture, as most of it had been in use ever since my father's* first marriage, and we have abundance of our own since we were married. The things that were not sold were valued by competent judges, and the plate was divided.

"Mary and Charlotte, the two girls next Rebecca, are placed at an English boarding-school established in Brunswick, State of New Jersey, about thirty miles from New York ; and the two younger girls passed the winter at home, where Rebecca and I taught them spelling, reading, and writing, until her health made it impossible to give them the necessary attention. When Mary and Charlotte returned after their spring vacation, they took Harriet with them to school, and Cecilia, the youngest, accompanied Rebecca. She is a very delicate child, and one of the most amiable little creatures in the world. Samuel and Edward, whom my father used to call his little pillars, and always had one on each side of him at table, are the most promising lovely boys that ever were, and have a marked elegance and grace in their appearance and manners that distinguishes them from any boys of their age I ever saw, and a sweetness of disposition unequalled. They are under the care of the Rev. Mr. Bowden,† in Cheshire, State of Connecticut ; and although we hear from them once a week we are very sorry to have them so far from home ; but it is inconceivable how difficult it is to educate children in our city, although it is the reservoir of people of all nations, and you would suppose from its being one of the

* Her father-in-law's.

† Dr. John Bowden, a clergyman born in Ireland, was long the principal of an Episcopal academy in Cheshire, and later a professor in Columbia College, New York City.

capital cities of America it could command any thing. The general want is good schools, and many families that can not part with their children are really suffering from it.

“ Brother James and his family are at present in the country, that is, five miles from town. He has lost a lovely boy, five years of age, this spring, at the moment of the birth of a daughter. John and his two little daughters reside in Virginia. Henry is in the American navy, a lieutenant on board the *Baltimore* sloop-of-war.

“ Mrs. Vining remains in Delaware. She has a fine family of boys, and enjoys better health than formerly. Aunt Seton* is very happy in Albany, in the society of her three daughters; two of whom presented her, each, a second grandchild but a few days ago, and she hourly expects to hear that Mrs. Chancellor has also increased the number. I think, my dear aunt, I have given you a pretty good account of us all, except my own three sweet children, who I can *reasonably* assure you are not surpassed by any. My Anna-Maria is the very model of all we could even wish for; and perhaps my change of life may be one of her greatest advantages, as it has altered her young mother into an old one, better calculated to watch the progress of her active little mind. William grows so wonderfully like his grandfather, that you would scarcely believe it possible a child could be so much like a parent; and appears to have as many traces of his disposition and manners as he has of his features. Richard, our youngest, is, if possible, lovelier than either. I am his nurse, as I have been to all the others, and although he is able to stand up and lay his head in my bosom. I can not find courage to wean him yet.

“ Your kind confidence in my good qualities, my dear aunt, is very flattering and grateful to me—particularly if I may hope that it has been communicated from the pen of him whose good opinion I so much valued. I can never lament the season of youth; for that of middle age is much more desirable and lasts much longer, particularly if it properly prepares the way to honorable old age, and accumulates such materials as will make that happy. All my leisure hours have that aim; and if the point anticipated is never reached, it certainly occupies the present moments to the best advantage, and if ‘their memory remains’ it will be a source of the greatest pleasure. I am not yet five and twenty, but the last year has made both William and me at least ten years older. In order to give you a more perfect idea of what we are like, we forwarded to Mr. Maitland, a few months ago, an engraving of us both to be sent to you. They are good likenesses, but disfigured by the dress of the hair. If ever you go to London, you will see at Mr. Maitland’s a portrait of our father, the greatest likeness imaginable, copy of one done by an eminent artist, of the name of Stuart, who made his appearance in this city a few months previous to his death.†

* Margaret, wife of Andrew Seton, of whom hereafter.

† A few months before Mr. Seton’s death.

It is precisely what he was, as well in feature as in figure. The original is in our possession, and is all to us but himself, from its uncommon resemblance. This is altogether a family letter, and of such length that I will defer to my next many little communications you might wish for. It is necessary you should know something of every individual of the family in America, that you may be better able to trace us in idea, until some fortunate chance may bring us nearer to you, or you to us; but I fear the immense ocean between us will be an everlasting barrier to a meeting I so much desire. My William says he will add a few lines, if it is only to acknowledge the receipt of an affectionate letter he received from you on the 4th of August, many months after it was written."

Early in the year 1800 William Seton's affairs became embarrassed, and he found himself involved in difficulties which he was not able to surmount, and before two years were over he had lost his fortune. He found in his wife a woman of indomitable energy and a support in all his trials.

(Letter from Mrs. Seton to Mrs. Scott in Philadelphia.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 3d, 1800.

"My Dearest Julia,—I write only to wish you a Happy New Year and to tell you, if the news of our misfortunes have reached you, that you must do as I do: Hope the best. My Seton is in a distress of mind scarcely to be imagined; partly from the shock he has received, which was altogether unexpected, and partly from the necessity of immediate statement of accounts, etc., which is necessary for his personal honor and the satisfaction of his friends. The directors of the banks and all the principal merchants, even those who were concerned with him, recommended and strongly advised his suspension of payments as soon as he had received Mr. Maitland's * letters. You may suppose how much it has cost him, both in mortification and the uncertainty of the event. What is to become of his father's family, heaven only knows, for his estate has the first claim because he was the principal partner. For himself he could immediately be in a better condition than before; so great is the confidence in his integrity that he has had three offers of money to any amount he would name, but he has determined to leave every thing at a stand still till the partnership is expired next June twelve months. For the girls I must use economy, and

* Mr. Maitland was the head of the London branch of the firm. The loss off the island of Texel of a ship carrying a large amount of specie from Amsterdam, to relieve the distress in that quarter, was the immediate cause of the failure in England, and this brought after it that of the house in New York, which, moreover, had lost considerably by the French spoliations.

in case of unnecessary demands appeal to their reason. Dear, dear Julia, how long I have been tired of this busy scene ; but it is not likely to mend, and I must be thankful for what may remain from the ruins of Wall Street.

“ Yours most truly,

“ E. A. SETON.”

(Lady Cayley to Elizabeth Seton.)

“ N.3., September ye 16th, 1800.

“ My Dearest Niece,—It is now a long time since I wrote to you ; only having wrote once since I received yours by Mr. Ogden, who I did intend to have sent a letter by on his return from Hamburg, but from my not knowing when that was ye time slipped away, by my being at Scarborough, before I was aware of so much being gone, and I fear now there is no chance of his carrying this to you ; but I am resolved to take ye chance and write to you while in my power, for when I have crossed ye water I can never be certain of my letters reaching you.

“ I hope you have received my number two, that answered yours by Mr. Ogden, ye contents of which did indeed grieve me so much as to have it seldom out of my thoughts ever since ; being interested for you all as if children of my own, and ye unluckiness of affairs having gone so wrong makes me constantly anxious to know how you support it and what my dear William contrives in this sad change of things. I wrote to Mr. Maitland to know how affairs really stood, and by his answer I understood ‘ both houses were to go on for three years longer, if your friends in New York agreed to the same things those in London did,—but that the whole effects of the industry of former years would be quite lost,’ which is indeed a most cruel case and must affect him and you all extremely, requiring great fortitude of mind to support ; but I doubt not that your religious minds induce you to submit without repining to what you are conscious was no fault of your own in any respect ; and as these great events in life (when they do not arise from our own misconduct) never happen but for some good purpose, we must endeavor not to repine, but turn our thoughts to what advantage we can find in them as regards our happiness in ye next world ; as ye want of success in this world’s affairs has been to many ye first of blessings in that respect. I will therefore hope that neither of you are unhappy about it, and that your dear and amiable William has kept his health through all these tryals, and fallen upon some plan to give a sufficiency to all his numerous charge, which I own I am anxious to hear and long much for a letter from your dear self to tell me. I have been ever since February last on a visit to my dear Anne Worsly. They would then make me go with them to Scarborough, where they were going to spend ye summer for their eldest son’s health, who was ordered sea bathing for some months together. Scarb’ro is a very romantic place, where a great deal of company goes all ye summer to bathe, and is gay in assemblies, plays, etc. ; but people may either go to them or not, which makes it very pleasant ; and as we were

sometimes quiet and sometimes gay, according as our friends were there or not, we found it very pleasant ; and I only left it four days ago to set out for Ireland on a melancholy occasion ; to comfort my poor sister Lady Synnot, who has just lost her eldest daughter in a consumption which began but this spring. She suffered dreadfully, poor soul, to ye very last, and my sister never left her a moment, which has so exhausted her, by adding such fatigue to distress of mind, as to make her very ill. She has so charming a feeling heart as makes her delightful to her friends. She was so fond of your dear and amiable father that we never dared tell her of his death till ye end of last winter, when ye hearing of it half killed her. And she was so affected at what she supposed only his silence, that she wrote letter after letter, pouring out ye affections of her heart to him, which her husband kept without her knowing it, and when she did know it, she grieved they had not gone—even for you to read, that you might have known how fondly she doated on him, and by it become acquainted with her, and thought that now she should be always a stranger to you. This I tell you to give you some idea of her amiable mind, for she is a most charming woman ; if you knew her you would doat on her as I do.

“I set out from Brompton yesterday, and expected to be at —,* ye sea-shore that I embark from, ye night after to-morrow, and as I can not either cross ye sea or leave my sister this winter, I shall spend it in Ireland. Therefore, as I trust you will get this and write in time for my hearing from you while there, you must direct to me at Sir Walter Synnot’s, Mount-joy Square, Dublin.

“I only wish I could witness my dear William’s and your felicity, which I picture to myself is charming, imparting you strength to stand ye shock of all adversities while blessed with each other and your darling babes. Farewell, may Heaven ever bless you with peace and health.”

In November, 1797, Mrs. Seton, with a few other society ladies, founded the first charity organization in New York, and probably in the United States. The hundredth anniversary of the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children was celebrated in 1897 with much *éclat*. She had been strictly brought up in the tenets of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and became a particular favorite of the Rev. Mr. (afterward Bishop) Hobart. One of Dr. Hobart’s daughters, Rebecca Seton Hobart, was a godchild of Mrs. Seton, and after marrying Bishop Ives of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina, became a Catholic with her husband.

* Name illegible.

Dr. Bayley was Health Officer of the Port of New York, and lived near the Quarantine building on Staten Island. He died there of ship-fever, contracted in the line of duty in 1801. The following is his daughter's memorandum of his short illness and death:

“September 5th. 1801.

“On the 10th of August in the afternoon my father was seated at his dining-room window sipping his wine: composed, cheerful, and particularly delighted with the scene of shipping and manœuvring of the pilot-boats, etc., which was heightened by a beautiful sunset and the view of a bright rainbow which extended over the bay. He called me to observe the different colors of the sun on the clover field before the door, and repeatedly exclaimed; ‘In my life I never saw anything so beautiful!’ After tea I played all his favorite music, and he sang two German hymns and the ‘Soldier’s Adieu’ with such earnestness and warmth of manner, that even the servants observed how much more cheerful he was than any evening this summer before. At ten he went to his room, and the next morning when breakfast was ready, his servant said he had been out since daylight and had just returned home. He took his cup of tea in silence, which I was accustomed to, and went to the wharf and to visit the surrounding buildings. Shortly afterwards, he was sitting on a bench of the wharf, his head resting on his hands, exposed to the hottest sun I have felt this summer, and looked so distressed as to make me shed a flood of tears. The umbrella was sent and when he came in, he said his ‘legs gave way under him,’ went to bed and became immediately delirious. Young [Joseph] Bayley, who has been one of his family for fourteen years and to whom he was exceedingly attached, was with him and capable of executing every direction; but neither opium nor any other remedy could give him a moment’s relief, nor could he ever lie still without holding my hand. ‘All the horrors are coming, my child, I feel them all’; this and other expressions and the charge he gave me of his keys convinced me that he knew the worst from the beginning. No remedy produced any change for the better, and the third day he looked earnestly in my face and said: ‘The hand of God is in it, all will not do,’ and repeatedly called, ‘My Christ Jesus have mercy on me.’ He was in extreme pain until about half-past two Monday afternoon, the 17th, when he became perfectly easy, put his hand in mine and breathed the last of life. He was taken in his barge to within half a mile of the graveyard of Richmond, where he was laid by his faithful boatman. Neither the sexton nor any of the people dared approach. Mr. Moore* of the Island, performed the service.

* This was Dr. Richard Channing Moore, who for twenty years officiated on Staten Island. In 1814 he became Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia.

" ' In Memory of
 DOCTOR RICHARD BAYLEY,
 of New York,
 Who after practicing the various branches of his profession
 With unwearied diligence and high reputation
 For thirty years in that city,
 Projected a plan, and for five years conducted the
 Operations of a Lazaretto on this Island.
 Intelligent in devising and indefatigable in pursuing plans
 Subservient to the cause of Humanity
 He continued to guard the Public Health with
 Persevering Industry.
 And in the midst of dangers to perform with
 Invincible fortitude the hazardous duties of Health Officer.
 Until in the discharge of this important trust
 He was seized with a Malignant Fever, to which he fell
 A Lamentable Victim,
 And thus terminated a life of great usefulness,
 On the 17th August, 1801,
 AGED 56 YEARS.'

" My father is buried on Staten Island, in Richmond church-yard, close to the church on the east side. The above inscription is on a white marble tablet raised a few feet from the ground.—E. A. S."

In September, 1803, William Seton, accompanied by his wife and eldest daughter, went on a voyage to Italy for his health, which he hoped would be restored by the mild and beneficial air of Pisa. Mrs. Seton kept an interesting Journal during her absence, but as it has been published, I will say no more, except that her husband died at Pisa on Tuesday morning, December 27th.

(Elizabeth to Rebecca.)

" LEGHORN, Jan. 3d. 1804.

" My Dearest Rebecca,—I have been looking over the account of our voyage which I had written you to the last day of the past year, and as it is probable that Captain O'Brien will sail in a fortnight, and I may be with you before that opportunity reaches Boston, and my letters get from there to you, I think it best to take it to New York myself ; for if it is God's will that I do not see you again, I would not wish that the melancholy scenes of sorrow I have passed through should come to your knowledge. You will all feel enough at hearing that our dear William is gone—gone stretching out

his arms to the Saviour, rejoicing at the moment of his release. Our passage here was as comfortable as we could expect ; but the thirty days passed in a Lazaretto on the sea-shore, exposed to a succession of heavy storms very unusual to this climate, and in a large room always cold and filled with smoke, added to the confinement, and the regulation of not allowing even a physician to feel his pulse (for whoever touched or came within some yards of us were subject to the same quarantine), was more than he could bear. And eventually, after having been many nights bolted in with the assurance that he would die before morning, he was carried out and put in a coach that took us to Pisa, a ride of fifteen miles, which, with pillows, cordials, etc., he bore much better than we expected. Two days before Christmas he was confined to his room with the last symptoms of consumption. He found no comfort but in having his door shut and me on my knees by his bedside, night and day, to help him in his prayers. Christmas day he continually reminded himself of his Redeemer's birth, and hoped so much that he might be called that day. At about twelve o'clock of Monday night the agony came on, and he bid me close the door and darken still more the room. I did so, and remained on my knees holding his cold hands and praying for him till a quarter past seven, when his dear soul departed gently from the mortal frame without a struggle. I heard him repeatedly follow my prayers, and when I ceased a moment, continued saying, 'My Christ Jesus, have mercy,' and told me to tell all his dear friends not to weep for him, that he died happy and satisfied with the Divine Will. After he was dead I brought little Anna into the room to pray with me by his side. The terror of his complaint (which they here look upon with as much dread as we do the yellow fever) was great in the house, but his body was at once conveyed to Leghorn, where he was buried in the Protestant cemetery, with the attendance of our clergyman, the consul, and the Americans and English of the place.

"Here I anxiously wait, my dear sister, for the day of sailing. The Filicchis do all they can to ease my situation, and seem, indeed, as though they could not do enough. From the day we left home we have met with nothing but kindness, even in strangers. My husband's sufferings and death have interested so many persons here, that I am as kindly treated and as much attended to as if I were in New York. Indeed, when I look forward to my unprovided situation, as it relates to the affairs of this life, I am the more touched by their tenderness. Anna says, 'Oh, mama! how many friends God has provided for us in this strange land, for they are our friends before they know us.' But for all this, these three months have been a hard lesson—pray for me that I may profit by it. Richard is at Cadiz, and I believe does not know of our being here, as he has performed a long quarantine in consequence of his having been at Malaga while the plague was there.

"Tell my dear friend, Mr. Hobart, that I do not write because the opportunity is unexpected, but that I have a long letter I commenced on

board of ship to him, and that I am hard pushed by these charitable Romans, who wish that so much goodness should be improved by a conversion (I once overheard, 'if she were not a heretic she would be a saint!'), which, to effect, they have even taken the trouble to bring me their best-informed priest, Abbé Plunket, who is an Irishman. But they find me so willing to listen to their enlightened conversation, and learned people liking best to hear themselves, I have but little to say, and, as yet, keep friends with all as the best comment on my religion. I think I may hope to be with you on Ash-Wednesday, not within God's house, but in spirit."

William Seton's modest tomb is next to Smollett's. I have given a picture of the cemetery which my father brought from Leghorn sixty years ago. While in Italy, Mrs. Seton and Anna were much befriended by a noble and exemplary Catholic family named Filicchi. Chevalier Philip Filicchi had travelled in the United States in 1785-86, and become a friend and correspondent of William Seton (1), who had successfully made interest to have him appointed the first American Consul-General to Tuscany and neighboring parts.

Doubts and prejudices were gradually dispelled from Mrs. Seton's mind, and after returning to New York in June, 1804, she and her children were received into the Catholic Church on March 14, 1805, after a severe struggle with herself, and after encountering the most intense opposition of her family and friends. She was compelled by their scornful behavior to leave the city and retire to Baltimore in an almost destitute condition. Her godmother, a rich and childless widow, Mrs. Startin, who had made her will in her favor, destroyed it when Elizabeth became a Catholic, and left her large fortune to another. In 1809 Mrs. Seton and companions, including two sisters-in-law, Henrietta and Cecilia, removed to Emmitsburg, in Frederick County, Maryland, and there founded, at Saint Joseph's, the first house of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. Mrs. Seton died on January 4, 1821. Her dream had come true. "8th November, 1803. In Gibraltar Bay—A Dream. Was climbing with great difficulty a mountain of immense height and blackness, and when

near the top, almost exhausted, a voice said: 'Never mind, take courage, there is a beautiful green hill on the other side, and on it an Angel waits for you: ' "

Through many tribulations we must enter into the Kingdom of God (Acts xiv.).

Her *Life* has been admirably written by the late Rev. Dr. White, who made it one of the most interesting and edifying works in the Catholic literature of America. It has gone through several editions, and continues in constant demand.*

William Seton left five children at his death:

William,	} of whom hereafter.
Richard,	
Anna-Maria,	
Rebecca,	
Catharine,	

Other children of William Seton (1):

I. JAMES SETON. Born in New York, 28th August, 1770. One of his sponsors in baptism was James Seton, of Edinburgh, for whom he was named. His father obtained for him a commission as Ensign in the English Army early in 1782. He was then sent off to England and placed at school in Richmond—an old letter speaks of General Sir Henry Clinton and Colonel Crosby having been to see him there, and how well they treated the little man—and on September 2, 1782, he had already drawn £54 of his pay. Through the influence of Lord Percy, an old friend of hers, Mrs. (John) Seton obtained for him a long leave of absence from his regiment—the Seventy-fourth—then at Halifax, Nova Scotia, under Colonel John Campbell, so that he might continue his studies. He returned to New York in a few years and enjoyed himself in society, where he was very much liked,

* Her life has also been written in French by Mme. de Barberey, with the title, *Elizabeth Seton et les Commencements de l'Église Catholique aux États-Unis*. It has been translated into German and Italian.



JAMES SETON, OF NEW YORK.

being remarkably handsome and intelligent. A letter from Joseph Hadfield, an Army agent, dated London, 9th June, 1795, says: "You are a lieutenant on full pay from the beginning of September last, and are entitled to lieutenant's half-pay on the reduction of the corps." Such a military system has fortunately long passed away. James continued, as I see by receipts, to draw his money from England for

many years. Finally he resigned from the service and renounced his allegiance, becoming a citizen of the United States. At the beginning of the War of 1812 he was offered the rank of Major and a position on the staff of General Van Rensselaer, who commanded the New York Militia, and who wrote to him rather foolishly (in view of subsequent events): "We shall make a figure before Niagara on horseback!"

He married, March 20, 1792, Mary Gillon Hoffman, daughter of Nicholas Hoffman, of New York, and Sarah Ogden, and had issue. Mary Hoffman was descended from Martinus Hoffman—born 1640, died 1671—who emigrated from Sweden to America, and settled at Shawangunk, an Indian locality in Ulster County, New York, which was afterward called Hoffmantown. He was armigerous, and founded a well-known old American family, which has made good alliances and given some distinguished public men to the State. James Seton was prominent in society. His portrait is among the gentlemen in the water-color painting (now in the New York Historical Society) of the "Interior of Park Theatre, November 7, 1822." It is of exceptional interest for the social life of New York, seventy-five years ago. He had one son and four daughters, of whom the three youngest died unmarried. Alfred Seton, his son, was of an ardent and adventurous spirit. In speaking of an association formed in New York about 1830, to assist in an expedition to the Far West, Washington Irving, in the Introductory Notice to his interesting *Adventures of Captain Bonneville*, says:

"One of the most efficient persons in this association was Mr. Alfred Seton, who, when quite a youth, had accompanied one of the expeditions sent out by Mr. Astor to his commercial establishments on the Columbia, and had distinguished himself by his activity and courage at one of the interior posts. Mr. Seton was one of the American youths who were at Astoria at the time of its surrender to the British, and who manifested such grief and indignation at seeing the flag of their country hauled down. The hope of seeing that flag once more planted on the shores of the Columbia, may have entered into his motives for engaging in the present enterprise."

Alfred Seton married Frances Barnewall, of a fine old family. I remember him well forty years ago, when he lived on his beautiful place at Westchester. His grandson and namesake is Alfred Seton of New York and Tuxedo, who married Mary Louise Barbey, daughter of Henry Barbey and Mary Lorillard, and has issue. His granddaughter, Laura Seton, married a Prussian officer and gentleman, Von Kettler, and has issue. She died in Germany in 1898.

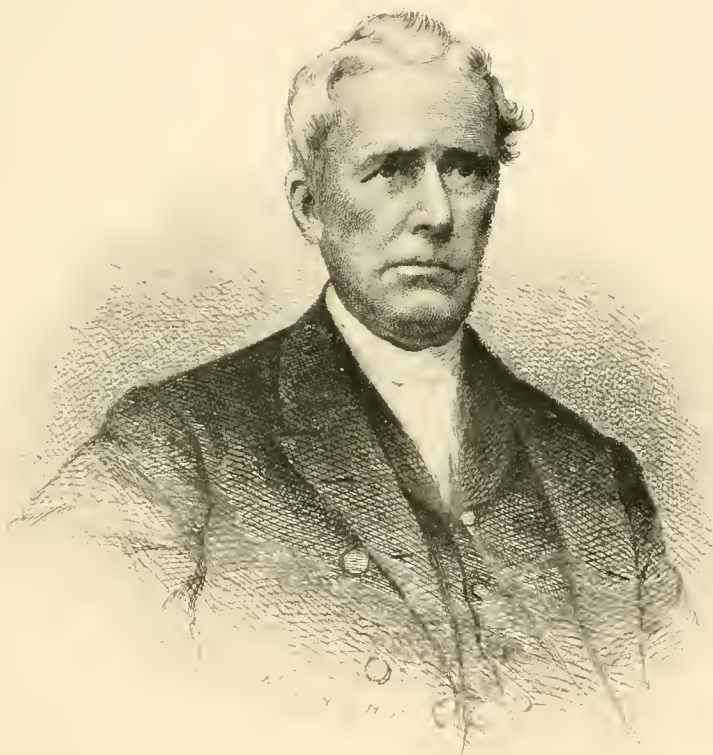
Mary Seton, daughter of James Seton and sister of Alfred (1), married Henry Ogden, Esq., of New York, and had issue.

II. SAMUEL-WADDINGTON SETON. He was born in the city of New York, January 23, 1789. His godfather and sponsor in baptism was Joshua Waddington, one of the Directors of the Bank. After receiving a good education he made a voyage to China as supercargo in 1807. He was engaged to be married to a virtuous and beautiful young woman, only daughter of a clergyman; but when he returned after an absence of two years, he was told she was dying. He hastened to the house, which was at a considerable distance from New York, travelling all night on horseback, and was married at her bedside next morning. As he said to me, sixty years afterward: "We were spiritually wed on earth—I kissed her chaste lips once—she died that afternoon—we shall meet in Heaven." He was a very handsome and courtly gentleman and much sought after; but he mixed no more in society, dressed like a Minister, and continued faithful to his first and only love:

For when a soul to soul is truly wed
There is no ending of the honey-moon.

—SETON: *The Pioneer*.

Samuel Seton became prominently connected with public education, and "his peculiar tact and skill in management, as well as felicity and beauty of illustration in his addresses, made him very popular, and pointed him out as peculiarly



J. W. Seton.

fitted for the position of Agent and Superintendent of Public Schools in New York City." His philanthropic zeal was not confined to the schools, but extended to all the poor and helpless within his reach. He was a fertile and a tasteful writer, both in prose and verse, mostly for the young. "He was also," says another obituary notice, "singularly effective in his addresses to the young, mingling information impressed with the quaintest and most humorous of illustrations with passages of the most touching pathos. His dying request breathed the spirit which had pervaded his life of over four-score years, 'Bury me among the children,' and accordingly his grave was made in the centre of the children's plot in Greenwood Cemetery, over which a monument was erected by the Public School teachers of the city." The portrait I give is one taken in his seventy-fifth year, and engraved in Bourne's *History of the Public School Society of the City of New York*, and is a good likeness. He died on November 20, 1869. He left me at his death an elegant Louis Quinze writing-desk, which had been imported by his father a century before, a statuette of Benjamin Franklin, and a copy of the first Catholic Bible published in the United States (1790).

He had this peculiarity, that he read a chapter of the Scriptures every morning, first from the Protestant and then the same from the Catholic version.

III. EDWARD-AUGUSTUS SETON. He was born in Hanover Square, New York, on 25th April, 1790, and became a great favorite in society, because (as a very old lady once described him) he was so aristocratic-looking. Like many other adventurous young Americans, he went to the great Southwest Territory to settle. Married rather late in life, at Opelousas, Louisiana, and had an only son, a Lieutenant in the Confederate Army, who was killed in battle before Richmond in 1862.

When a young man of twenty he went to visit Mrs. Seton

at Emmitsburg, and made a large water-color sketch of the Sisterhood as it appeared in 1810. On his return to New York, he copied it carefully in oil. The sketch and painting came into my possession from my Aunt Catharine, to whom he gave them; but the latter, which was a finished production, was accidentally destroyed by fire some years ago. A steel engraving had fortunately been made of it. Edward-Augustus Seton had considerable talent for drawing and painting. He was a great reader and much given to study.

IV. ELIZABETH SETON. Born in New York, 7th April, 1779. She grew up as all her sisters, very handsome, and was her father's favorite daughter. He had a copy made by Gilbert Stuart himself of the original portrait painted for his eldest son, and gave it to her on her marriage in Trinity Church, New York, in 1797, to James Maitland, Esq., a gentleman of an ancient and noble Scotch family, which had already in past ages been connected with the Setons. There were five children of this marriage, of whom:

1. William Seton Maitland, a Captain in the U. S. Army, was lost at sea while returning from Florida, where he had been engaged in the Seminole War (1836). A lake discovered by him in (Orange County) Florida now bears his name. He died unmarried.

2. Benjamin Maitland, married Frances Latham, of an old English family, and had issue, twelve children.

3. Rebecca Seton Maitland, married Benjamin Porter, Esq., and left issue, Hon. Robert Hobart Porter, who for many years was President of the Board of Charities and Corrections of the city of New York. He married Annie Metcalfe Dwight. Their children are: (1) Henry Hobart Porter, Jr., who married Catharine Porter, of Boston, and has Dorothy Dwight Porter and Margaret Seton Porter; (2) Francis Dwight Porter; (3) Seton Porter.

V. CHARLOTTE SETON. Born in* New York, May 1,



E. H. H. H.

1786. Married Gouverneur Ogden, Esq. The founders of this family were two brothers, John and Richard Ogden, who emigrated from England to this country in 1640. Their descendants have been prominent here in politics, in com-

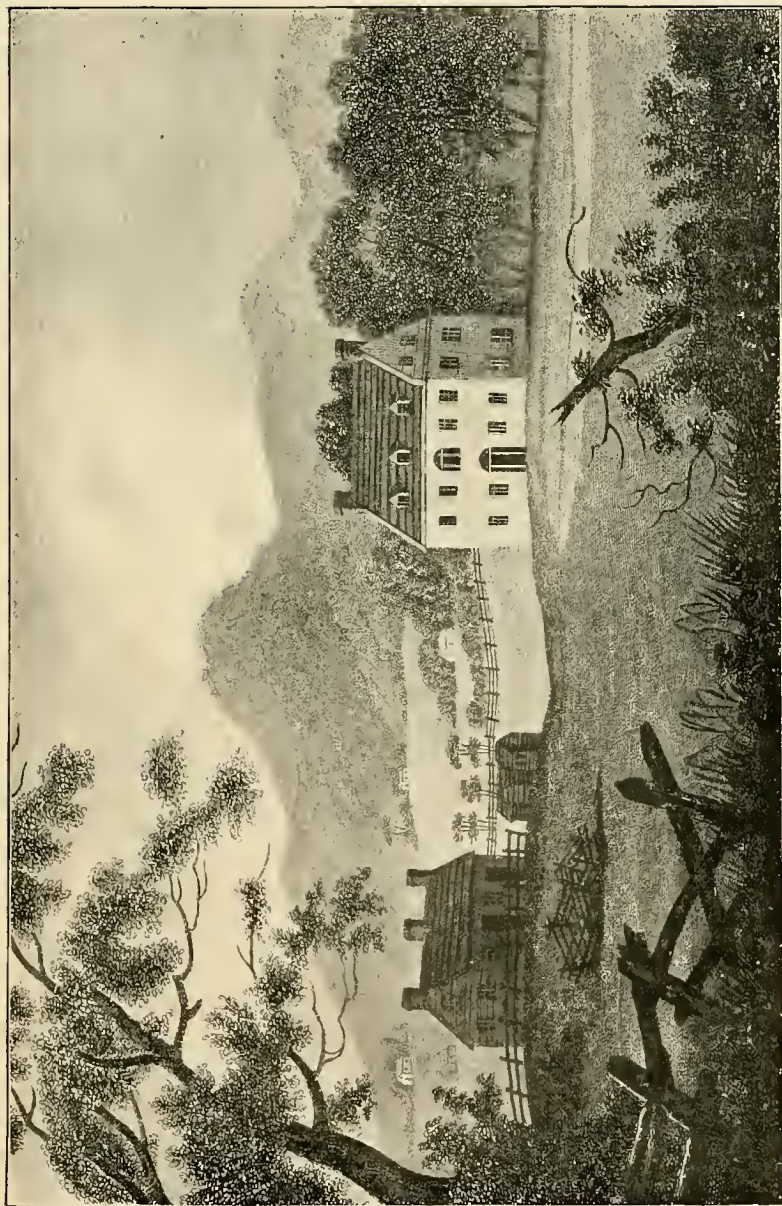


MARGARET SETON PORTER.

merce, and in the learned professions. Gouverneur Ogden was sixth in descent from the original John Ogden. He studied law, and became a partner of Alexander Hamilton. Having with his brothers purchased an extensive tract of land—sixty thousand acres—in Northern New York, they went there with their family in 1807. The property was at that time mostly a wilderness in Saint Lawrence County, abound-

ing in game and wild Indians. The now large and important city of Ogdensburg was named for them. Gouverneur Ogden erected a fine mansion on the river. It was accidentally burned down in 1840, but the ruins show what was the size and imposing aspect of this old landmark. Gouverneur Ogden died in 1850, and his wife in 1852. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery, at Troy, New York, leaving numerous descendants, of whom Mary Seton Ogden married George Usborne, Esq., whose eldest son, Captain George Usborne, of the Royal Navy, is now Harbor Master at Queenstown, Ireland; Henry Vining Ogden, Esq., married Caroline Briggs, and has issue: Henry Vining Ogden, Jr., M.D., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and two daughters. Gertrude Gouverneur Ogden married John Gordon, Esq., of the Lochinvar or Kenmure branch of this great Scotch family, which is of the Seton blood centuries ago, although retaining the old Clan name. Their children are Thomas Gordon, unmarried; George Ogden Gordon, married Alice Bradford, a lineal descendant of William Bradford, first Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, has no issue; John Gordon, married (1855) Rosalie, daughter of Colonel Murray, of the Royal Engineers, and has issue two daughters; William Seton Gordon, of New York City, married, 1880, Mary Roebuck, niece of the Right Honorable John Arthur Roebuck, M.P., and has four daughters.

VI. REBECCA SETON. She was born in New York on December 20, 1780. Was baptized by Rev. Dr. Benjamin Moore, who was then an assistant minister of Trinity Church. In a Memorandum of Mr. Seton's about his children, he is careful to state the fact of their being baptized, and to say by whom. Rebecca was of a sincerely religious turn of mind, and entered into all the pious thoughts and practices of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Seton. The letters that passed between them are many and beautiful. The Journal, which I have already men-



SAINT JOSEPH'S SISTERHOOD IN 1810.
(From a painting by Edward Augustus Seton.)

tioned, was written by Elizabeth Seton for Rebecca, and was meant to be kept private. It was surreptitiously printed in 1817 by an Episcopal minister at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, to whom it had been lent. He gave it the title of *Memoirs of Mrs. S . . . Written by Herself. A Fragment of Real History.*

Rebecca died of consumption on July 8, 1804, shortly after the return of Mrs. Seton, who says, in a Memorandum of her death, that a few moments before she died: "We spoke a little of our tender and faithful love for each other, and earnestly begged that this, begun in Christ on earth, might be perfected by Him in Heaven"; and two years afterward, when Mrs. Seton was a Catholic and at Emmitsburg, she wrote in what she called her *Dear Remembrances* about her return to New York from Italy, and says:

"A thousand pages could not tell the sweet hours now with my departing Rebecca. The wonder at the few lines I could point out (in her continually fainting and exhausted condition) of the true Faith and service of our Lord. She could only repeat: 'Your people are my people, your God my God'; and every day my delight to see her eagerness to read our spiritual Mass together until the Sunday morning of our last Te Deum, at the sight of the glorious purple clouds in which the sun was rising, and her tender thanksgiving that we had known and loved each other so closely here, to be reunited a moment after in our dear Eternity."

VII. HENRIETTA, better known as HARRIET SETON. She was born in New York on December 27, 1787, baptized by Rev. Mr. Moore. She grew up exceedingly beautiful, and was engaged to be married to — (whose name I prefer not to give); but accompanying her sister Cecilia to Baltimore in April, 1809, who was to join Mrs. Seton, she also remained there and journeyed to Emmitsburg with the party that went to found Saint Joseph's Sisterhood. Her prolonged visit, and the fear that she, too, would turn Catholic, made — break their engagement. Henrietta has left a Memorandum in her own handwriting, which says: "I formed

my first resolution of becoming a Catholic on the 22d of July, Saint Mary Magdalene's day, in the little chapel on Saint Mary's Mountain. On that day the pastor of two happy souls I was ardently attached to, offered up the Divine Sacrifice of the Mass for my conversion.

"September 24th. Day of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Received my First Communion. On the same day made a renewal of my baptismal vows, and was entered in the Sodality of the Sacred Heart. Hour of adoration, seven o'clock in the morning. On Tuesday, the 25th, made my second Communion, and was entered in the Sodality of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary." Mrs. Seton briefly completes the narrative in her *Dear Remembrances* :

"Harriet's last communion on the Feast of the Expectation, 18th. Dec. 1809, 'All peace and love,' she said ; 'Hear the beating of His heart in the garden of Gethsemane. See how they scourge Him ! Oh, my Jesus, I suffer with Thee. Why will they not bring Him to me ? My Jesus, Thou knowest that I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee.'"

She died on December 23, 1809, and was buried under the spreading branches of an oak-tree, a few hundred yards from the Community house and school, in ground which had been chosen for a graveyard. She would, doubtless, have joined the Sisters had she lived, and the blessed inmates of Saint Joseph's have always considered her one of their own.

VIII. CECILIA SETON. "Born the 9th August 1791 in Hanover Square, New York, baptized the 3rd Sept. 1791, by the Rev'd. Dr. Moore, sponsors—Louis Simond, Anna-Maria Vining and Mrs. Wilkes, wife of Israel Wilkes." *

Cecilia grew up a lovely child ; and, as the youngest, she was the pet of the family. Her mother died when she was only a year old, but two years later she found a second mother in her brother William's wife. The first of the many notes and letters which I have found passing between Mrs. Seton and her sister is this one :

* William Seton's *Family Memorandum*.

(To Cecilia Seton.)

" 19th. Nov. 1802.

" Let your chief study be to acquaint yourself with God, because there is nothing greater than God ; and because knowledge of Him is the only one which can fill the heart with a peace and joy that nothing can disturb."

When William Seton went to Italy, never to return, his little sister Cecilia was taken into the family of his next brother, James Seton. Rebecca Seton, when dying, had recommended her with special tenderness to Elizabeth, who says, in a letter to her of October 8, 1805: " You are to me my dearest child. I never attempt it or can express the sentiment of tenderest love that lies in my heart for you." She is described at fourteen as one whose attractive face and form added graceful charms to a most sweet disposition. Even at this age, from what she had read, she often expressed " the amiable and pious wish of living one day in a Convent." In January, 1806, she was taken with pneumonia, and during her illness was constantly visited by Elizabeth, to whom she confided her wish to become " a member of the Church." There exists a beautiful letter from the Rev. Mr. (afterward Bishop and Cardinal) de Cheverus on the subject, written from Boston to Mrs. Seton, who had evidently consulted him as to her own line of conduct. Cecilia recovered from her illness, and was publicly received into the Catholic Church on the 20th of June, 1806. It is needless to say that she suffered very bitter opposition from her family, nor will I expose again the cruel letters that were written to her on that occasion and afterward. She never fully recovered from her illness, and her health declining, in 1809 it was decided, after many entreaties, to let her join Mrs. Seton at Baltimore, and with the rest of the party she went to Emmitsburg. She expired, the first Sister of the new Community to die, on the 29th April, 1810.

Mrs. Seton, writing of her death to a friend, says: " A

happier, more consoling departure than she took you cannot imagine. She was innocence and peace itself. The sisters lie in a wood inclosed, hard by our dwelling. Every day the hands of affection and love do something to adorn the sacred solitude"; and in *Dear Remembrances*: "Cecilia's gentle death the 29th of April, 1810. Her burial. The children gathering wild flowers."

Descendants of Andrew and Margaret Seton.

ANDREW SETON, Esq., of the branch called Seton *of Barnes*, married in England, in 1760, Margaret, daughter of John and Elizabeth Seton, of whom above. They came to this country in 1773, settling first at Brook Haven, Long Island, afterward in Brooklyn. They and their children are very frequently

mentioned by Mrs. Seton in her letters to her son William at New York. Andrew was a Loyalist during the Revolution, and a party of armed patriots crossed the Sound in whaleboats from Connecticut one stormy night in 1776, and sacked and burned his house, and drove his wife and children barbarously out into the snow and cold, where they nearly perished. They would have murdered Andrew if they had found him at home. It was after this that he



MARGARET SETON, WIFE OF ANDREW
SETON, 1807.

removed for safety to Brooklyn. At the end of the war he went with his family to Florida, and died in 1794. Margaret died there in 1818, aged eighty, and is buried beside her husband in the old cemetery at Fernandina. They had a large family of children, of whom Peter, the eldest, is often mentioned in our family letters, and always as a gallant young fellow and a general favorite. He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, but found it hard to get along on his pay; was on some admiral's flagship, "which put him to a great expense"; was in a hot engagement with the French, but came out unwounded; wanted to go to the East Indies; visited his relatives in London:

"Peter has been in London some time and seems very well pleased with his situation. He forwarded me a parcel from his mother containing a very pretty worked handkerchief, done by her daughter Isabella, for which tell her I am much obliged tho' sorry she put herself to the expense. I wrote to her and sent Andrew's miniature to Peter's care, so that she will no doubt receive it. Her letter was dated last October."*

On February 7, 1795, Mrs. Seton writes to her son:

"My sister Robertson . . . sent me a letter she had from Peter Seton, dated Madras Roads, 24th July, 1794. He writes in very good spirits, and they were going upon an expedition against the Mauritius, where he expects to have his share of plunder, for he has no doubt of success."

Peter died soon after this at the Cape of Good Hope, and the last mention of him in Mrs. Seton's letters is to say that his servant had rifled his effects and made off with all that he could carry.

MARY SETON married John Wilkes, of New York, and left issue. One of her sons was the late Admiral Charles Wilkes, who is remembered as the Commander of the United States Exploring Expedition.

ISABELLA SETON married Robert Henry, of Albany, New York, and had a large family. Their distinguished son was

* From Mrs. Seton to William, in New York, February 27, 1791.

the Hon. Charles Seton Henry, born November 29, 1799. He went South in 1820, and joined the Savannah Bar. He became a Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Georgia Historical Society. Died in 1864.

CHARLOTTE SETON married John Vernor Henry, of Albany, New York. One of her grandsons is Guy Henry, U.S.A. This distinguished soldier was a general officer in the Civil War, afterward a great Indian fighter, and is now a Brigadier-General in the Regular Army, a Major-General of United States Volunteers, and has been Military Governor of Porto Rico. He married, first, Frances Wharton, of Philadelphia (sister of Mrs. Lucy Wharton Drexel, of New York), and has a son, Thomas Lloyd Henry, and a daughter, Sarah, who married Lieutenant James Benton, U.S.A., and has a son, James Webb Benton. General Henry married, secondly, Julia McNair, and has two sons: Guy Vernor Henry, Lieutenant U.S.A., and William Seton Henry.

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE SETON, born in 1774, was a bold and enterprising young man. He followed the sea in the merchant marine, and on one occasion fought his ship so well against a French privateer that he was given a handsome silver punch-bowl, bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the President and Directors of the New York Insurance Company, to Capt. Wm. D. Seton, as a testimonial of the high sense which they entertain of his gallant conduct in defending his ship, the *Northern Liberties*, against the French Privateer, *Malantic*, of superior force, in the Bay of Bengal, 13th December 1799." On the bowl were also engraved the Seton arms and a picture of the fight. He perished on his ship the *Marion*, which foundered in mid-ocean in 1804, going from New York to Leghorn. Was never married.

CHARLES SETON, born in Brooklyn in 1776. As a boy he was cared for by his uncle, William Seton, of New York, and early manifested intellectual and social abilities,

combined with a love of travel and adventure. At an early age he went as supercargo to the Cape of Good Hope, and on his return to America, by way of Europe, visited Paris and London, where he met his cousins, the Berrys. His miniature was painted in Paris in 1811. Speaking Spanish fluently, he went into the lumber business at Fernandina, Florida, where he built a large house and lived with his mother, whom he tenderly loved and cared for. He was a man of ability and force of character. In 1813 he took an active and prominent part in repelling an attack on the town by a large body of organized filibusters from Georgia, who were successfully beaten off, but Mr. Seton received a ball in his body which he carried until his death at Fernandina in 1836.



CHARLES SETON, SON OF ANDREW AND MARGARET SETON, 1811.

“He was a man much loved and respected by all who knew him.” He married, in 1812, Matilda, daughter of George Sibbald, of Philadelphia, of the Sibbalds of *Balgonie*, in Fife-shire, Scotland. They had two sons and four daughters, of whom only one son and one daughter left issue.

GEORGE SETON, son of Charles Seton and Matilda Sibbald, born December 2, 1817. He was a decidedly handsome man, and popular. He was purser for several years before the Civil War on a steamer plying between Charleston, South Carolina, and the Saint John's River, Florida. Married his cousin, Caroline Sibbald. During the war was a Captain in the Quartermaster's Department of the Confederate Army. After the war he purchased property at Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland, and died leaving a son and daughter. His widow lives on the estate with her children:

1. CHARLES FRASER SETON, representative of Andrew and Margaret Seton, who puts forth some claim to be the rightful heir to the Earldom of Dunfermline.

2. MARY (MAY) ISABEL SETON.

MARGARET SETON, daughter of Charles Seton and Matilda Sibbald, married Colonel Lewis Fleming, of Hibernia, Florida, whose father, George Fleming, came out from Ireland in 1785, and got a grant of land from the Government.* He married, in 1791, Sophia, daughter of Francis Philip Fatio, who had settled in Florida in 1771. A sketch of this lady's family was published by the late Mrs. Susan L'Engle, who was connected with it, and who says: "The Fatio family was originally from Palermo, in Sicily, but becoming involved in the

* The founder of the noble and ancient family of Fleming, which rose to great distinction in Great Britain, and long enjoyed peerages in Scotland and in Ireland, was Archambault, a knight of Flanders—hence surnamed *Le Fleming*—who went with the Conqueror to England and was rewarded for his services by several manors in Devonshire and Cornwall, of which he is found possessed in 1087. One of his descendants attended Henry II. in the invasion of Ireland and obtained several lordships there. From him came the Barons Slane, one of whom, Christopher Fleming, was created Viscount Longford in 1713.

The Scotch Flemings held the lands of Biggar and Cumbernauld. Sir Robert Fleming, lineally descended from the original settler in Scotland, was created a peer of Parliament as Baron Fleming in the fifteenth century, and in 1606 John, sixth Lord Fleming, was made Earl of Wigton.

civil discords of that country, they removed to Milan and Venice, in Italy, and finally to Switzerland. The name has varied in its spelling. I find it sometimes written Facio, sometimes Faccio, and sometimes Fazio; but, later, the present spelling *Fatio* was adopted very generally."

The children of Colonel Lewis Fleming and Margaret Seton were numerous. I will mention only two.

1. CHARLES SETON FLEMING was born at the Panama Steam Sawmills, of which his father had charge as Agent and Manager for the owners, on the Saint John's River, in Duval County, Florida, on the 9th of February, 1839. He was a valiant young officer, and was killed in Virginia during the Wilderness campaign, June 3, 1864, while in command of his decimated regiment. He died unmarried. An interesting *Memoir* of Captain Charles Seton Fleming, of the Second Florida Infantry, C.S.A., was published at Jacksonville, Florida, in 1884. On June 3, 1893, his remains were removed from the battlefield where he fell to Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia, and rest with unsullied honor among many thousand heroes of the doomed Confederacy.

2. HON. FRANCIS PHILIP FLEMING. When a young man he served in the Civil War as First Lieutenant in the First Florida Cavalry, C.S.A. After the war studied law and became an eminent member of the Bar. Was Governor of his State from January, 1889, to January, 1893. Married, May 23, 1871, Floride Lydia Pearson, daughter of the Hon. Byrd Pearson, a native of South Carolina and a prominent member of the Florida Bar. Was a Justice of the Supreme Court of that State. Her mother was Elizabeth Legere Croft, of South Carolina. The children of this marriage now living are:

Francis Philip Fleming, Jr., born January 23, 1874. Is very handsome and intelligent, and a partner in his father's law firm.

Charles Seton Fleming, born August 24, 1875.

Elizabeth Legere Fleming, born November 5, 1881.

Charles Seton Fleming was educated at the famous Virginia Military Institute, and promptly responded to the President's call for troops at the outbreak of the late war with Spain. Was an officer in the First Florida Volunteer Infantry. He is a young gentleman of promise.

Children of William Seton and Elizabeth Bayley.

ANNA MARIA SETON. She was born in New York on 3d of May, 1795, the eldest child of this marriage.

The first letter of Mrs. Seton to her daughter is dated 3d May, 1803, Anna's eighth birthday, and was accompanied by a manuscript book of extracts. It is worthy of all praise.

“ 3rd May, 1803.

“ My Dear Daughter,—This book was begun when I was fifteen, and written with great delight to please my father. Since I have been a mother, the idea of continuing it for my children's instruction and amusement, as well as to give them an example of a good means of adding to the pleasures of study and assisting the memory, has been one of my favorite fancies ; but fancy only it is, for in pursuing that train of reading which would afford extracts for the book, I find the soul unsatisfied and turning with anxiety to those subjects you will find fully dwelt on in your largest book. Works of imagination, and even the wonderful productions of science, carry the thoughts but to certain confines ; those indeed that examine the beautiful orders of creation are more suited to fill the mind that is making acquaintance with their great Author. But when the acquaintance is already made, the soul filled with this immensity and only separated by the wall of partition is fully busied in guarding against surrounding danger or in searching all the strengthening means this world affords, where alone it finds its refuge. In short, the portion of time the mother and mistress of a family can afford for reading is so precious, that she finds the necessity of dwelling on ‘ the needful,’ and I must leave to you, my love, to finish what I have begun. And recollect, as a mother's entreaty, that you give some time in every day—if it is only half an hour—to devotional reading, which is as necessary to the well ordering of the mind as the hand of the gardener is to prevent the weeds destroying your favorite flowers.”

Anna Maria accompanied her parents to Italy, as I have elsewhere said, and is often mentioned in Mrs. Seton's Journal. The only thing I possess of my dear and pious young aunt, whom I never saw, are a few notes in her handwriting, a lock of her hair, and an image of Our Lord kneeling in the Garden with the emblems of the Passion around Him, painted on a small slab of alabaster and given to her by one of the Filicchi children at Pisa. She was ever after known in the family as *Annina*, the Italian diminutive of Anna. She was received into the Church with her mother, and made her first Communion in Saint Peter's, New York, on the feast of her patron saint, July 26, 1806, and was confirmed at Saint Joseph's (Emmitsburg) on 20th October, 1809, by the Right Rev. Bishop Carroll. Annina was of a sweet and tender disposition, singularly pious and devout, and beloved by all who knew her. She was on a visit staying with some friends in Baltimore in January, 1810, and from there wrote the following letter, which breathes all her pure and affectionate heart:

"To the Dearest of Mothers: Union in Eternity with Him.

"My Most Precious Mother,—No letter! well, my Jesus, Thy will be done. O my mother, my dear mother, what shall I say? all uncertainty. I know not what to think; but, O my mother, pray, do pray for that dear soul. I can not tell you how much I loved her; she is as it were the subject of all my prayers and sighs.* Oh, how much I love you! You are my dearest, and soul's dearest mother. I have a question to propose to my mother, and you alone shall decide. The girls are going to have an Exhibition, and they wish me very much to be in it; but I do not wish to have any part in it. They begged me very much, and still I refused. Well, they begged me again. At last I said: Well, whatever mother says. Do not you think I had better not act? but whatever you say. Most precious, dear mother! it has been a long time since I have received a little word from my mother. If you can, do write me a little word and tell me your opinion.

"Your ever-loving and affectionate child,

"ANNA-MARIA."

On her return to Saint Joseph's Anna caught a cold, which ended in rapid consumption. Her mother kept a journal of

* Her aunt, Henrietta Seton, then recently dead.

her last illness and death, which is very touching, ending with these words, which may not be understood by all, for they belong to "the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven," which God has hidden "from the wise and prudent," and revealed to "little ones":

"After Mass how many, many most fervent acts and aspirations to Jesus! what cheerfulness of her dying countenance! how sweetly she applied her now speechless mouth to the crucifix! what a cry of joy to all around her! amidst so many precious signs I will ever remember this act of gratitude and thanks to Jesus;—the arms stretched forward to Heaven with inexpressible energy and a look piercing even to Him on high, and an effort of the lips to cry and express—what is known only in Eternity. Oh, mother, mother, give a thousand thanks all your life—every day of this life, until you meet with her again."

Anna died, after receiving the habit as a Sister of Charity, on March 12, 1812, in her sixteenth year.

The *Dear Remembrances* end with Annina's death: "The last clasp of her hands and look to Heaven, when she was asked *if she was not grateful for the goodness of our Lord to her?*"

REBECCA SETON. She was born in New York on July 20, 1802. The youngest child of the family.

She made her first Communion at Saint Joseph's on Christmas Day, 1812. When between ten and eleven years old, she fell one day on the ice where she was playing, and was picked up a cripple for life. In the month of October, 1815, she was sent to Philadelphia to be under the treatment of an eminent surgeon; and although some of her mother's friends asked to have her with them, she begged to stay with the Sisters at the Orphan Asylum, because "it reminded her of Saint Joseph's." The following letter to her mother, coming from a child of thirteen, is remarkably well written, and reveals her simple little heart:

"ORPHAN ASYLUM.

"As I soon expect to hear of an opportunity, I must write to my own mother to tell her with what joy I think of the day I shall once more be in

her arms. I am sometimes almost lost in thought, and am as overjoyed as if I were actually with you ; but I hope to see my thought soon come true. Oh, my mother, what a day that will be : my heart gets too full when I think of it. I must tell you, to comfort you, how much better I am than I was. I have been to 'Aunt' Scott's twice ; she took me riding in her carriage—I do not know how far—to the Museum, the Bank of Pennsylvania, Bank of the United States, the Water-works, and I do not know where else ; but what was better than all, Sister Rose took me to the Poor-House. You must know what a coward I am, as you have experienced me. I do not dare to think of my own sufferings after having seen theirs ; though Sister Rose tells me I have seen but the least part of them. There is one poor woman up in the incurable ward named Peggy (ask Sister Susan, she will tell you whom I mean) ; she told Sister Rose : 'Sister Rosy, I forgot to tell Mr. Roloff the main thing yesterday.' 'Well, what was it?' 'That I had no tobacco' (speaking softly). However, I had happily just spent nineteen cents in getting tobacco and snuff to carry with me. But I wanted very much to get out of the place, for as we were going up-stairs we met a person who behaved very cross to us, which made me very much afraid for fear we should meet with another one. When we got out, believe me, my own mother, I really felt as if I were in Paradise. There was another poor creature there who had three holes burnt with caustic in her side. She said that during the time it was burning her, she could think of nothing but the Wounds of our Jesus, and actually did not feel the pain of it. I also saw old 'Queen' Agnes, just woke out of a sleep, and quite loaded with old watch-seals, and beads, and chains, and I do not know what all. Sister Rose told her there was a great many people died nowadays. In great surprise she said, opening her eyes wide, 'Has any died to-day?' 'No.' Then Sister Rose says, 'Agnes, are you afraid of death?' 'No.' 'But would you like to die?' 'No, that I wouldn't : I think it a terrible thing that a body must be put in a pit. I am afraid they would put me in alive.' 'Oh, but Agnes, you know that does not hurt the soul.' 'I don't know.' Then Sister Rose said, 'Agnes, this little girl's mother knew you when you used to be in the hospital at New York.' 'Who is she? I don't remember her.' 'Mrs. Seton.' Then inquiring earnestly, 'Is she dead?' 'No.' Then looking me full in the face—'She is a pretty girl.' Sister Rose says, 'She is going to be good.' 'She looks as if she would be.' I thought to myself, you have a fine taste ! They all appeared glad to see me. I believe I have told you all my things here but one. Agnes missing Sister Susan, asked Sister Fanny, 'Where was the pretty sister (meaning Sister Susan), not the religious one (meaning Sister Rose), is she gone home to get married?' 'Oh, no, Agnes,' says Sister Fanny, 'we don't marry.' 'I don't like that at all,' she answered. Oh, my mother, how I long to be with you ; but yet a little while. I think it is time to bid you farewell. Ever your own child.

"BEC."

She was the favorite sister of her brother William, and her only regret was to die during his absence—he was in Italy—but many affectionate letters passed between them. These are her last :

“ ST. JOSEPH'S, April 5th, 1816.

“ My Dearest Brother,—We received last night your most dear letter of January, and could have cried together to think that you have not received our letters. But be assured, dearest Willy, we will write you every opportunity we can hear of. Last Sunday one year was the memorable day we parted with you, two o'clock it was as the bell rung for silence—silence it was with us. Mother can not speak of it to this day without starting tears which mine answer. The spring is so far advanced that we already hear the turtle dove cooing, which sits on the tree over Annina's grave. We think perhaps, it may be the one we bought from Jim, and mother let go off her hand.”

“ ST. JOSEPH'S, April 8th, 1816.

“ My Own Darling Brother,—We received two more letters from you again to-day, and are too sorry that you do not get ours. I think it impossible but you will sometime or other receive them. I am going to Mr. Duhamel's as usual, but I would be twice as happy were you there. I have Dick, and that is a great deal. I anticipate much pleasure ; Miss Polly so kind,—Sister Susan so kind. You would have laughed just now had you seen old Clem receive his new Easter coat. ‘A-ha!’ he said, ‘my good Mother Seton!’ So much pleased. I hope you will not fail to give us a little description of these times in Italy. Mama tells us they are so beautiful. I would so much wish to join in your pleasures, which must be very great, never having been there before ; but that great ocean between us, and Mediterranean Sea, put me out of all such thoughts, but I trust, my darling brother, we will meet in another land where there will be no seas and oceans to separate us. I think I am daily getting better both as to my limb and health. I hope and trust, if it please God, I may live to embrace you once more. That is my earnest desire, it revives me to think of it. It seems almost like a dream, that I have a dear brother, and one who loves me so dearly, so far away. Farewell, my dear, dear Willy. I scarcely know where to stop. Ever your most loving and tenderly attached sister. BEC.

“ P. S.—I pray for you and our best friends, the Filicchi family, every day in Mass, and also when I go to Communion. Pray, if it be our dear Lord's will, I may live to see you once more.”

She did not live to see him. Rebecca died a Postulant in the Order of the Sisters of Charity, November 3, 1816.



MOTHER CATHARINE SETON, 1870.

The last words in her mother's Journal of her illness and death are :

“ ‘ Think only of your Blessed Savior now, my darling,’ I said : ‘ To be sure, certainly,’ she answered, and said no more, dropping her head for the last time on her mother's breast.”

CATHARINE SETON. She was born in the city of New York on June 28, 1800. Her youth was passed at Saint Joseph's, where she remained until her mother's death. A few years later she travelled extensively in Europe with her brother William, who was in the Navy, enjoying a long leave of absence. She was well acquainted with French and Italian, and refused, from her unwillingness to depart from the conditions laid down by the Church for mixed marriages, an offer from the handsome and brilliant widower, then British Minister to the United States, Mr. Stratford Canning, afterward the celebrated Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, Ambassador at Constantinople. Miss Catharine Seton was noted at that time for her beauty, wit, and social accomplishments. There is a large correspondence between herself and her brother William, which we value and preserve with loving care.

Mother Catharine Seton, only surviving child of Mother Seton of blessed memory, died at the Convent of Mercy, in Madison Avenue, corner of Eighty-first Street, New York, on April 3, 1891. She was one of the first to be received into the Order of Mercy when it was established in New York by the late Archbishop Hughes, and at the time of her death was the oldest member of the Community.

A biographical notice of Mother Catharine says :

“ Her life in the community was almost exclusively devoted to the care and instruction of the poor, and to the spiritual consolation of prisoners. For twenty-five years she was a constant visitor to the Tombs. No one probably ever acquired such influence and control over the thieves and robber class of New York. Though complete reformation was seldom the reward of her zeal and prayerful labors, she was able to prevent much evil and inspire much good in the minds and hearts of this dangerous and

apparently irreclaimable class. They came to her for years to seek her advice and guidance ; they endeavored to make her trustee and executor for their wives and children, so implicit and unbounded was their confidence in her. She would be called to the parlor to meet at the same time some relative moving in the best circles, and perhaps some unfortunate whose steps to the convent door had been followed by a detective.*

" Beginning her life with the century, she labored steadily in her chosen work till the infirmities of age made it impossible to continue her active exertions. Her judgment was always clear, and the late Archbishop Bayley, her kinsman, always entertained the highest respect for her advice. In her younger days she had known almost all the notabilities of the country, and was a special favorite of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last surviving Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

" Mother Catherine was also one of the last links connecting the Catholics of the present day with the days of Archbishop Carroll, whom she saw and remembered. The long line of eminent Priests and Bishops from the days of Flaget, Cheverus, Du Bois, Bruté, England, and Hughes, was familiar to her."

. RICHARD SETON. He was the younger of the two sons of William and Elizabeth Seton. Born in New York, on July 20, 1798. His birth is thus mentioned in a letter of his mother to a friend, Mrs. Julia Scott, in Philadelphia, dated 31st August, 1798:

* The experience of the Sisters in the [New York] city prison, or Tombs, would fill volumes. Malefactors of every country and degree have there claimed their ministrations. Numbers have been converted, of whom some died true penitents, and others have become useful members of society. In reclaiming these, Mother Mary Catharine Seton spent the greater part of her active life as a Sister of Mercy. She even took the trouble, at her somewhat mature age, to keep up by study her knowledge of modern languages, that she might be able to instruct or console the prisoners of all nations whom she encountered in this awful abode, which she did to the great comfort of many a poor foreigner. . . . This good woman is loved and venerated by thousands, in the prisons and outside of them ; she is truly the prisoners' friend, and in that capacity has inherited strange bequests. Once a trunk, supposed to contain clothing for the poor, came to her by express from Philadelphia. Its contents were pistols, jimmies, and other burglars' tools, with one suit of clothing, the dying legacy of a noted burglar whom Mother Seton had made many efforts, not unsuccessfully, to reform. It was all he had, and he sent the trunk with a good heart to his only friend and benefactress, Mother Seton, " to remember him by."—*Leaves from the Annals of the Sisters of Mercy*, Vol. III., pp. 170-172.



Your Dear Brother.
Richard B. Seton.

"My pains are all over, and I have one of the loveliest boys to repay me that my fond imagination could have formed—not a little additionally dear to me for having the name of Richard Bayley, which softened by Seton at the end, are sounds that very much delight me and are the promise of much future hope and comfort. But I was so terribly ill that every exertion was necessary to save me. The dear little son was, for some hours, thought past hope: and the mother within one pang more of that rest she has so often longed for, but which Heaven, for good purposes has again denied."

Richard grew up a worthy young man, and tenderly attached to his family. His love for his brother was remarkable, and the most affectionate letters passed between them as long as they lived. He was a fine musician, and inherited his father's *Stradivarius*, on which he played with great taste. He was also good with the flute and flageolet. He was handsome and over six feet two inches tall, but of a restless disposition, ever wanting to roam the world. He went to Italy and to the West Indies, and finally found his way to Africa, where a colony for colored Freedmen, called Liberia, had recently been founded under the protection of the American Government. One day in 1823 the following announcement appeared in a Boston paper:

"Died on board the brig *Oswego*, June 26th, on her passage from Cape Mesurado to St. Jago, Richard B. Seton Esq., of Baltimore, late United States Assistant Agent at Monrovia, aged 26 years."

The following letter to Richard's brother is from that saintly man, Father (afterward Bishop) Simon Bruté, and breathes the tenderness and piety of his heart, for Richard had been one of his pupils at Mount Saint Mary's College:

"MT. ST. MARY'S, Sunday Evening,
"7th September, 1823.

"My Dear William,—Mr. Egan has informed us of the fatal news and the extreme affliction in which he left you and your good Kitty. Bear, I may almost say, with a few lines from your poor Bruté. Of consolation he will attempt no other but the continual motto of your dear mother: 'He is all—all in all!' I was yesterday at her grave—wished you were. Saw the wildness of the three graves—of the five; then saw Heaven—as we should so easily, in faith, and told them your heart of old and of now. I

did, for you both, and me. I spoke to some of the Sisters. Mr. Hickey will have done so to all. I saw tears—he more. O mother! Friday I said here the Mass of community for him, speaking a few words to the boys and to the young men. I noted what you told me of his kind remaining with that unfortunate colony. I said my hope of his last fervent remembrances of our Lord, of his mother and holy sisters, Rebecca, Anna; and of his best moments for him, near them—and with yourself. Ah! I witness—O my God, my God! To-day I recommended him in town—mother ever so loved there. My William, bear with a devoted friend, and say, vouchsafe, say, to your beloved and forever so dear, so truly respected sister, what you may for me. Be blessed both. ‘He is all! all in all!’

“S. BRUTÉ.”

The Rev. Jehudi Ashmun, who sailed for Africa in 1822, to take charge of a reënforcement for the Colony of Liberia, says of Richard Seton in a letter to his sister Catharine, of December 28, 1823:

“To your dear brother I well may acknowledge my extensive obligations. He found me a solitary white man on this secluded coast; and from a spontaneous movement of generous feeling, offered to become my companion. He found me depressed with affliction, burdened with care, and wasted to the weakness of childhood, by half a year’s sickness. Too disinterested, alas! he offered to stay and supply more than sickness had deprived me of. His open, undisguised character, the simplicity of his manners, and the native kindness of his heart, had won, perhaps, further on the affections of our black people than any other Agent had ever done in so short a time. I have heard from them no other objection to Mr. Seton, but that he was a white man; the only fault which, with some of them, unfortunately, is held unpardonable.”

V. WILLIAM SETON, ESQ., of New York, Representative of Parbroath. He was the second child, but eldest son of William Seton and Elizabeth Bayley. Born in the city of New York, November 25, 1796. He died there January 13, 1868. When he was but two years old his mother writes of him, “William is still more like his grandfather Seton, and as sturdy and saucy as ever.”

He and his brother were students at Mount Saint Mary’s College, Maryland, which is not far from Saint Joseph’s Sisterhood, in the Valley, and on May 27, 1810, their mother writes to a friend:

"If you could breathe our mountain air and taste the repose of the deep woods and streams! Yesterday we all, about twenty Sisters and children, dined at our grotto in the mountain, where we go on Sunday for the divine office. Richard joined his mother's side, but William contented himself with a wave of his hat and a promise of seeing me afterwards; and going home he followed in a part of the wood where he would not be seen, and gave such expressions of love and tenderness as can come only from the soul, but always unobserved, and never forfeiting his character of being a man. They are two beings as different as sun and moon; but William most interests poor mother. In the afternoon Catechism he was asked if his business in this world was to make money and gain a reputation, or to serve God and use all his endeavors to please Him. 'My business, sir, is to do both,' answered William, with a tone of decision."

Well, my dear father never made money, and never tried; but he gained a reputation—the reputation of an honest man and a friend of the poor; and fifty-two years after this letter was written, the last time I ever spoke to Archbishop Hughes of New York, on some occasion when he was stopping at the American College in Rome, he said to me: "Robert, your father was the *justest* man I have ever known." What particular circumstances may have caused that distinguished prelate to form so favorable an opinion, I do not know; but I do know that my father's defence of his religious principles, and of the Irish Catholics—sometimes at great risk to himself—during the Native American and Know Nothing years, may have had something to do with it.

In another letter, written to a friend on June 4, 1810, his mother says:

"William is the boy of hopes and fears. Reading some lines in an almanac the other day of the whistling of a sea boy in the main-top shrouds: 'That's your sort,' he cried, 'I'm your man'; and always talks of roving the world; but yet has great ideas of being a gentleman in everything, without knowing that a gentleman without a penny is but a name. However, as his gentleman-notions make him a fine fellow, I trust it will all turn out well, for a more loving and tender heart can not be imagined."

In 1815 and 1816 he was with the Filicchis in Italy, where he acquired the Italian language; and I may here say that he also spoke French and Spanish fluently. Of his

journey from Bordeaux he writes to Father Bruté, an ardent royalist, on August 26, 1815: "I reached here without any accident, although I was pretty often cheated on the road; indeed, I have been uncommonly fortunate. On arriving at Marseilles, Madame de Saint Césaire received me into her house as her son, as she was pleased to call me, and we parted in tears. The French marshal * permitted me to cross the Var, although the same day he had refused other foreigners. From Genoa I traveled in company of an English gentleman to Leghorn, where I was received with the utmost kindness by Mr. Filicchi." In 1817 President Monroe made him a Midshipman in the Navy; and in 1818 John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War, notified him of his appointment to the rank of Second Lieutenant in the First U. S. Infantry with orders, if the appointment were accepted, to report to General Ripley at Pittsburg; but he wrote to his mother—he loved the sea so well—"I would not give up my Warrant for a Captaincy in the army; I would have no objection to the order, however," with allusion to active work against the Indians which a soldier might expect out West. His parting from his mother was very sad, and from his companions at college, by all of whom he was much liked for his manly disposition and readiness to defend the weak against the strong in

* Fifty years after this my father, in telling me of his early days, described his interview with Marshal Brune, who was murdered a few weeks later at Avignon, during the White Terror. Although strongly dissuaded from trying to approach him and full of trepidation at the stories told of his brusqueness and ill-temper, he went boldly up to headquarters and asked to see him, saying that he was an American just arrived by way of Bordeaux, and travelling for the first time alone. The marshal received him very politely, ordered refreshments, and made him sit down for half an hour and talk of America—of republican America, of which he spoke with enthusiasm; for he had always remained republican at heart, and although he served the empire, he would never accept a title from the emperor. Finally he dismissed his visitor with many kind words, and sent an officer of his staff to escort the young democrat across the lines.

the disputes that will occasionally arise among all schoolboys. His mother writes to him in Boston on February 16, 1818:

"Young White came to see me the other day, and told me that there was a little boy at the Mountain who said, now William Seton was gone he could never have any more pleasure, for he loved him better than anyone in the world."

The following letters to his mother reveal his inmost heart:

"*Independence*, Friday, Feb. 27th, 1818.

"My Dear Mama:—I arrived here three days ago, after traveling night and day. The day before yesterday I reported myself to the Commodore, and obtained permission to remain on shore for that evening. The next morning I reported to the fighting Captain Downs, and obtained permission to remain a day longer. To-day I have reported to our First Lieutenant Rose for duty. My introduction was rather unpleasant, for I was ushered into a court-martial sitting on a brother midshipman for disobedience of orders. At New York I heard of Uncle Wilkes' death. Charles is a midshipman in our ship. The Commodore received me very kindly, also Mr. Sullivan, and Bishop Cheverus * with the heart of a brother, or rather of a father. He desired me to tell you that Mrs. Wally had quite recovered of the fever, and also her daughter, who had been attacked by the same disorder. He asked me to remember him affectionately to you. Commodore Bainbridge said that he had known Grandpapa Seton and Papa intimately. He is a fine man. I am so anxious to know what I have to do, that my head is quite confused. The post goes every day, so that I shall never want opportunities to write. For the present I conclude, as we are only allowed three candles and a half per week. We are twenty-two midshipmen on board, many of 1818. Remember me affectionately to Mr. Dubois, Mr. Bruté, Mr. Hickey, and all whom you know I love."

"BOSTON HARBOR, March 4th, 1818.

"My Dearest Mother—Again I attempt to write you from this noisy house. Indeed, it is a very difficult thing to find a fit moment, surrounded by twenty-four midshipmen, each endeavoring to say, sing, and do what he can in order to beguile the tedious hours, for we are to all intents and purposes imprisoned about three hundred yards from the shore, which I have not visited since my arrival. Next Sunday, however, I hope to revisit our dear Bishop Cheverus, whose truly affectionate and tender kindness I shall ever gratefully feel. I forgot to tell you in my last that in passing through New

* He was the first Bishop of Boston. He returned to France in 1823, where he died a cardinal-archbishop.

York I could not see Sister Rose, she being out when I called ; Sister Cecilia, however, and some of their little family, I saw. If I could judge by myself, no earthly pleasure should take me from you : but our cases are widely different. At times my feelings so far overcome me that I can not restrain the outward expression of them ; happily for me, our apartment is so dark that we can not see without candles at mid-day. Our duty is very easy. The drums beat up hammocks at half past seven o'clock, and to quarters at nine. During the day we have our different watches : sometimes two, sometimes four hours. At night the same ; but as there are many of us, we only keep a regular watch every third night ; but we may be turned out at any hour, night or morning, to go ashore, and then must not leave the boats on any account. Last night was my second night watch ; I kept from twelve to two."

"BOSTON HARBOR, March 25th, 1818.

"Dearest Mother,—Just ashore on liberty. I received last Wednesday your first letter of the 10th of March, inclosing one from our Dick. I can not tell you with what pleasure I perused both ; joy to know he was safe arrived and pleased with his situation, and delight in the love of my dearest one. Yet your gentle reproach was not unfelt ; could you for a moment doubt my affection because I did not write as I promised from every city ? You know my heart too well to think me indifferent. Could I ever be happy without your love ? No, my beloved mother, this world would be a desert without you. Let me know something more of our darling Kit when you write again, and do let that be soon. Every day when the purser brings on board the letters, I almost devour them with my eyes to see if there may be one for me ; but alas, so often disappointed—one of your letters must have been lost when the mail was robbed. We have rigged our ship, but there is no prospect of getting to sea just now, except in one of the frigates. I have written to Washington to obtain a berth in any that goes. I have seen Uncle John's widow ; she is very kind, and invited me to come there whenever I am ashore. Our good Bishop and Charles Wilkes desire to be affectionately remembered to you. Remember me to Mr. Dubois and all at the Mountain ; also to those around you, for you know I sincerely love all that love my mother."

"U.S.S. *Macedonian*, BOSTON HARBOR,
"July 21st, 1818.

"My Beloved Mother,—Your letter of the 10th instant came the day after Mr. Barry's, and I am happy to tell you that I received my orders to the *Macedonian* frigate almost at the same moment your dear letter was handed me. My desire has been so great to get to sea that you can't wonder at my being rather elated at the prospect of so fine a voyage. The ship will go round Cape Horn into the Pacific as high up as Columbia River, and higher if the captain chooses, but so far she is ordered. We will cruise in



MOTHER SETON, 1820.
The Sisterhood in the background.

the Pacific two years, visiting all the important cities on the western coast of North and South America, together with the islands visited by Captain Porter, where we will see savage life in its true state. It will be, in fact, one of the most interesting voyages ever made from this country. I long to hear that you have perfectly recovered from your late illness ; if not, do, dearest mother, let me know it, and I will use every endeavor to come to you. It would be a great satisfaction to me, indeed, to pass a little time with you before so long a voyage. The ship will not sail before the last of September or the beginning of October, in order to meet the season for doubling the Cape ; some say she will not sail till November. Charles Wilkes and several of my friends from the *Independence* have just been ordered to the *Guerrière*, which is expected to sail to-morrow, and several others to this ship. I am quite comfortable here, living in the wardroom of the *Java* until our ship is ready to receive us. If Andreuze returns, remember me affectionately to him, and also to all my friends, particularly to Mr. Dubois, Mr. Bruté, and Michael Egan."

"BOSTON, August 29th, 1818.

"My Dearest Mother,—I should have written sooner, but we have had a very busy time of it fitting out ship. Now we have hauled her out into the stream and are almost ready for sea, wanting only our powder (of which we take one hundred and sixty barrels) and some small articles which we take on board in the course of next week, when we shall drop down near the Light and wait for sailing orders, which the officers think we shall receive in two or three weeks. The *Macedonian* is a most beautiful frigate, pierced for fifty (carrying forty-eight) guns ; more completely and handsomely fitted out than any ship that ever sailed from this or perhaps any other country. She has thirty midshipmen and eight lieutenants, all clever fellows ; our captain, a fine man, the same who was first-lieutenant of Captain Porter in the cruise of the *Essex*. Oh, my beloved mother, if God spares me to see you after my cruise, what a happy moment I anticipate ! But, alas ! it is so far off ; and to think that I leave you unwell will cause me to quit port with a heavy heart ; but He who directs all will bring this voyage to a happy end, and me to your dear arms. Tell Kitty to write me a long letter before I go, it will be such a time before I shall hear from you after we sail. Bishop Cheverus, I suppose, has written you ; at least he said he would, the last time I saw him. Doctor Matignon is dying."

"U.S. Ship *Macedonian*, BOSTON,
Sept. 18th, 1818.

"My Dearest Mother,—I received yesterday your dear letter just as the ship was preparing to get under way ; all hands called to send up top-gallant yards, and unmoor ship, a stiff breeze blowing. Before night I must bid adieu to the United States. I think the most proper place to direct your letters will be to Valparaiso, in the province of Chili.

"My beloved mother, could you see my heart you would find nothing there but your dear self and those beloved beings who center in you. My heart is full, but I must endeavor not to let disheartening thoughts intrude at such a moment. I must be on deck at my station directly, so I can say no more. May God bless you, and grant we may meet again. I will write by every opportunity. The pilot takes this. Adieu. Your own WILLIAM."

"VALPARAISO, March 13th, 1819.

"My Dearest Mother,—I wrote you on our arrival here by an English brig bound to Rio Janeiro, since which no opportunity has occurred. This goes by a Nantucket whaler. God speed his passage, bring him safe home to his wife and little children, and this letter to my beloved mother. How much I envy the captain his prospect of a speedy return home! I do assure you that night and day my thoughts are constantly with you and my dear Kit. Sometimes in my night-watch I imagine the *Macedonian* safely arrived in the United States, and welcomed into Boston by the thundering guns of the old *Independence*. No delay; from Boston I post it to New York, shake hands with our friends there, then on to Philadelphia. Here I debate a moment whether to go by steamboat to Baltimore or take the stage through Lancaster to Gettysburg. The latter route is ever dear to me in my remembrance, having traveled it in such sweet company. At Gettysburg I take a private conveyance and arrive with a beating heart in Emmitsburg—then to St. Joseph's. The scene there may be *felt*, not described. Afterwards comes the meeting my dear companions at the Mountain: my friends Mr. Dubois, Mr. Bruté, Andreuze, Egan, etc., all are remembered and loved. Thus I pass many a tedious watch, or rather watches which would otherwise be tedious without these pleasing thoughts, glide away almost imperceptibly, and I rejoice to find myself four hours nearer to my happiness. Oh! my dearest mother, may God yet grant us the blessing to meet again and find you well. Don't be tired of life before I can see you once more; recollect, the cruise will be half over by the time you receive this. I have been on shore very little since our arrival, and we are now about to sail again in a few days. It is said that we only wait the return of Judge Prevost, of New York, an American Commissioner in these parts. He arrived here in the British frigate *Andromache* a few days ago, and went to the city of Santiago, about ninety miles from this place. We have passed our time here in scrubbing up the old ship and painting her. We exulted to find that the *Andromache* could not compare with us, either for neatness of rigging, decks, guns, etc., or beauty of model; so that we bear the bell in this harbor, as I fancy we can anywhere else. We have also given two splendid balls, which were attended by all the fair of Valparaiso, and our Consul and Lady Cochrane have given several to our officers on shore. Upon the whole, we have passed our time rather agreeably in Valparaiso. We now sail for Callao, the seaport of Lima. The midshipmen of the *Andromache* tell us that there the fogs are very heavy morning and even-



William Seton

ing, and the middle of the day almost insupportably hot, so that I'm inclined to wish myself there and off again. From there I believe we shall go to the Galapagos islands, directly under the Equator, uninhabited except by wild fowl, both of the land and sea species in immense numbers, together with seal, sea-lions, and other amphibious animals, also great numbers of land and sea turtle; the land tortoises weighing, many of them, from three to four hundred pounds, and will carry a man on their backs without any apparent exertion. One of them we had in our ship, given to us by the captain of a whaler who arrived shortly after we did. The tortoise was small of its kind, but I have frequently seen our little midshipman riding him about the gun-deck without the creature altering its pace in the least. They are all black, with feet resembling an elephant's, and rather a hideous appearance, but afford such delicious eating that green turtles are not looked at when these are to be met with. At these islands we shall remain some time to strip ship and have a complete overhaul of rigging, spars, etc., and to repair and refit every thing. They say that our going to Columbia River is now unnecessary, as Judge Prevost has already received possession of the settlement from the English for the United States. I forgot to tell you that we are going to California, but upon what business I can not exactly say. I hope to give you some day a full account of all our wanderings. I look forward to the end of this cruise with hope and anxiety; hoping to find all well, yet anxious, very anxious for the health of my dearest mother and sister. May God preserve you and grant us a happy meeting. As for myself, I have not known a moment's illness since I left you—thanks to Him who has protected me. I need not tell you to pray for me constantly. I often say a Hail Mary for you. When you write to Baltimore remember me to all our friends there, to Mr. Harper, Mr. Barry, the Chatards, and the rest who have been so kind to me. Don't forget to present my respects to Sisters Sarah, Ellen and Rosaline; I can not now think of any one with indifference whom I have ever seen with you, those particularly whom I know you love. Remember me also to my friends at the Mountain if you have an opportunity—to Mr. Hickey, Doyle, G. Elder, E. Elder, Heyden, etc. I shall endeavor to write to Richard if I can by this occasion. I will begin a letter at any rate, if I have to finish it another time it will be the longer. Remember me most tenderly to him."

"U.S.S. *Macedonian*, VALPARAISO BAY,

"April 12th, 1819.

"My Dearest Mother,—I write to you in haste by a ship bound to Rio Janeiro. We have made a short trip to Coquimbo in order to pass away time, and were very hospitably entertained by our Consul and the inhabitants. The city lies about three degrees to the northward of Valparaiso, and is pleasantly situated on a plain at the foot of the Andes, about a mile and a half from the sea-shore. The port, or place of anchorage, which consists of a battery of three or four pieces of cannon and five or six huts, is nine miles

from the city, and completely land-locked for small vessels, and affords excellent shelter. It is a pleasant ride from the port to the city, and the manner of riding still more pleasant, as the horses are always galloped. We entered into the custom with spirit, you may depend, and put them to their speed the whole way to the city, where we had been invited by our Consul to a ball, which was attended by the Governor and other distinguished persons of the place. The city is much handsomer than Valparaiso, and contains many churches and convents, and one or two fine squares. In point of cultivation it forms an agreeable contrast to the barren hills of this place. We remained there but three days, when we bent our course again for Valparaiso, where we are still. It is said we wait here to know the event of Lord Cochrane's attack on Callao, our captain, from motives of delicacy, not wishing to be present at the time it is made. I have had an opportunity of witnessing some of the extraordinary customs of the country in Holy Week. The day before yesterday being Maundy Thursday, all the Catholic ships in harbor wore their colors half-mast, and their yards a cock-bill or in a zigzag, careless position, expressive of mourning, and in the evening a stuffed effigy of Judas, with a sword by his side, was hung at the jib-boom ends. On Good Friday they amused themselves by keel-hauling, beating, shooting, ducking and concluded at night by burning him. To-day, about ten o'clock, they squared yards, mast-headed their flags, and all fired salutes. To-morrow will be Easter. Oh, my beloved mother, what scenes does this happy day bring to mind! But, alas, they are past. Heaven grant they may return; we can only hope it. Do, my beloved mother, use every means to preserve your health and my dearest Kitty's. I know you will, it is only yourself I fear you may neglect; you know how much my happiness depends upon it. God bless you, and our dear Kit and Richard—a thousand loves. Remember me affectionately to all."

When he wrote the following letter his mother was dead.

"*Macdonian*, OFF BOSTON LIGHT,

"June 19th, 1821.

"My Beloved Mother,—At last my fondest wishes appear on the point of being realized, and happiness, like a star from behind the clouds of a dark and stormy night, seems breaking on my view. But, alas, the horizon is not yet clear—and my poor, trembling star, how easily overclouded. You may imagine how anxiously I wait your first lines. The last I received from you was dated in May, 1820, one year and more back; and what great changes one year may produce, I fear to think on. Do write quick, and let me know how you are—let me know all. Kiss Kitty for me, and remember me to our friends at the Mountain. I shall keep my long stories until we meet: in fact, I feel too wild to say more.

"Ever your loving,

"WILLIAM SETON."



NATHANIEL PRIME.

A few years later, 1826, my father was a Lieutenant, and made cruises in the West Indies, on the coast of Africa and in the Mediterranean, always respected and always admired, for he was a remarkably smart and handsome officer.

On Thursday, July 17, 1832, William Seton was married by the Rev. Father Varela to Emily, daughter of Nathaniel Prime, Esq., and Cornelia Sandŕ. He soon after resigned from the Navy. Mrs. Seton was born in New York on June 26, 1804, and died in the south of France, on November 28, 1854. We had gone to Pau for her health.* Her father was a distinguished character, and for those days a very rich man. My father might have said to my mother with *Bassanio* :

“Gentle lady,
When I did first impart my love to you,
I freely told you all the wealth I had
Ran in my veins : I was a gentleman.”

Nathaniel Prime, the fourteenth of a family of fifteen children, came of that good old New England stock which, before the middle of the seventeenth century, had settled on and spread inward from the shores of Massachusetts, founding self-governing communities and raising the province to prosperity and renown among the thirteen American Colonies sprung from that mighty people which was beginning to encircle the world:

“And England sent her men, from men the chief,
Who taught those sires of Empire yet to be,
To plant the tree of life—to plant fair Freedom’s tree.”

The first of the family who appeared in this country was Mark Prime. He settled between September, 1639, and January, 1644, at Rowley, Essex County, Massachusetts. Na-

* My dear mother was an excellent musician, and spoke French and Italian. She had visited Europe with her father in 1826. To have made the Grand Tour in those days conferred, in the United States, a certain distinction upon the traveller.

thaniel was born there on January 30, 1768, in the house, still standing, which his father erected in 1753 on the land assigned to his ancestor between the dates given above. Young Prime, like many other New Englanders—or *Yankees*, if anyone like to call them so—went to New York in April, 1792, well equipped by education and native abilities to make his fortune, and in 1798 founded, and was long the head of the “historic banking-house of Prime, Ward & King”—a firm which remained in existence for more than one hundred years. He was a gentleman born, and used a seal—of which I have an impression before me—of the Prime arms: *Argent*, an eagle’s leg erased à-la-cuisse *sable*, armed *or* with his initials underneath, N. P. There is in the Temple Church, London, a small but handsome monument (now removed to the gallery), with an elegant Latin inscription, to Sir Samuel Prime, Knight, son of Samuel Prime, Esq., of Suffolk, England, the county from which the original settler in America came, and father of the late Richard Prime, Esq., of Walberton House, Sussex, J.P. and D.L.; Member of Parliament for West Sussex, 1847 to 1854.

Nathaniel Prime was a student of Shakespeare, and a treasured memorial of my grandfather is a set of Shakespeare’s works in twelve volumes, published at New York in 1817 by Henry Durell. It is one of the earliest American editions of the dramatist, and contains the autograph of Nathaniel Prime, who gave it to my father, from whom I received it.

Mr. Prime married, in New York, on June 3, 1797, Cornelia, daughter of Hon. Comfort Sands, a distinguished patriot, who had been a friend and correspondent of Washington. He was President of the New York Chamber of Commerce. The Sands family was also originally from New England. The founder, James Sands, or Sandys, was born in England in 1622, and, tradition has it, was a native of Reading, in Berkshire, and descended from Lord Sandys of the Vine. He landed at



CORNELIA SANDS.
(Mrs. Nathaniel Prime.)

Plymouth, Massachusetts, before 1642. Died on Block Island, March 13, 1695, and is interred there. "Captain James Sands commanded the New Shoreham Company in King Philip's War, and his house was turned into a fort and garrisoned by him." The Sands, like many other New England families, moved gradually toward New York, and *Sands' Point*, Long Island, and *Sands Street*, Brooklyn, commemorate some of their migrations and possessions. The wife of Comfort Sands, mother of Cornelia, wife of Nathaniel Prime, was a daughter of Wilkie Dodge and Mary, daughter of Thomas Hunt, of Hunt's Point, Westchester County, New York. Mrs. Sands died in New York, January 24, 1795. Her pall-bearers were representative men in the community, and show as goodly an array of old New York names as can be found anywhere: "William Seton, J. C. Shaw, Robert Lenox, Henry Cruger, Anthony L. Bleecker, Isaac Roosevelt, William Maxwell, and William Constable." It is noticeable that these eight names are either of Scotch (5) or of Dutch (3) origin, although the Sands connection was all of English descent.

Nathaniel Prime bought the house No. 1 Broadway in 1810. This historical mansion, which had been the British headquarters during the Revolution, and the scene of important military councils and of innumerable festivities, was torn down a few years ago, and its site is now occupied by the Washington Building. Mr. Prime "lived there many years, and saw his sons and daughters intermarry with the first families in New York," says Walter Barrett in his *Old Merchants*. He died on November 26, 1840, and is buried in the Prime vault beside the picturesque Episcopal church of Saint Paul, in East Chester, New York.

Of the three sons of Nathaniel Prime, the second one, Rufus, was the most distinguished. He was born at 42 (now 54) Wall Street, New York, on January 28, 1806, and

was named for the statesman Rufus King, whose third son, James Gore King, was the junior partner in the banking firm. He was a graduate of Yale College; was familiar with several languages, travelled extensively, and had cultivated literary tastes. He was an original member of the famous Union Club of New York, founded in 1836, and belonged to the most fashionable set in society. On October 16, 1828, he married Augusta, daughter of William Lambe Palmer, Esq.—at one time a Captain, Eighteenth Light Dragoons, in the British Army—and of Augusta Grenville Temple, daughter of Sir John Temple, Bart., H.B.M. Consul-General to the United States, a gentleman of an old English family which produced the well-known statesman of Macaulay's *Essay* and of the reign of Charles II. Rufus Prime was a handsome man of refined appearance and of a liberal turn of mind. He died at his country seat near Huntington, Long Island, on October 15, 1885. Of his sons, one, Colonel Frederick Prime, of the Engineer Corps, U.S.A., was a brilliant officer—a No. 1 graduate of West Point—now on the retired list. Served in the Civil War. The other, Temple Prime, Esq., at one time Secretary of Legation to The Hague, is a scholar and a quiet country gentleman, living at Huntington, Long Island, of whom I may say, as was said of a certain character in *Lothair*: “He had an ancient pedigree, and knew everybody else’s.”

WILLIAM SETON (3) died in the city of New York, January 13, 1868. He was buried in the cemetery at Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Mr. Seton had seven children who grew up, besides two—one of them George—who died in infancy:

William, of whom hereafter.

Henry, Major, U. S. Army. Born in New York. Was a Lieutenant at eighteen in the Twenty-sixth Rifle Battalion, Commandant the Duke of Wurtemberg, in the Austrian



Henry Seton.



Willie Seton.

Aet. 14.

Army, in which he patriotically resigned his commission to serve in our Civil War. Was a Captain, and on the staff of several general officers. Was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army in 1866, and has served with the Fourth U. S. Infantry against the Indians on the frontier; and in the Santiago campaign. Married, April 27, 1870, Ann, only child of Major-General John Gray Foster, of an old New Hampshire family,* a distinguished officer of the U. S. Army, who served in the Mexican War; was in Fort Sumter at the bombardment, in 1861, and commanded a military department during the Civil War. His wife was Elizabeth Moale, a lady connected with all the best old Baltimore families.

Henry Seton had two sons:

John, who, after studying some years at Mount Saint Mary's College and visiting Europe twice, died at Emmittsburg, Maryland, on November 8, 1897. Is buried in the Mount Cemetery.

William, born July 11, 1873. A graduate of Seton Hall College. A promising young man. Has studied Medicine and taken his degree.

Robert, born August 28, 1839. Educated at Mount Saint Mary's College. Studied Theology and Canon Law in Rome, 1857-67, graduating with honor from the *Accademia Ecclesiastica*.† Was named, in 1867, a Prothonotary Apostolic. Is Rector of Saint Joseph's Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, since 1876. Took his degree of Doctor of Divinity at the Roman University of the *Sapienza*; is an LL.D. of Nôtre Dame, Indiana, and a

* His first American ancestor was "William Foster who settled in Ipswich, Mass., in the year 1635."

† A History of *La Pontificia Accademia dei Nobili Ecclesiastici*, in which my name appears, was published in 1889. I received a copy from the author, Monsignor Procaccini di Montescaglioso.

Trustee of Seton Hall College. Published a pamphlet on *The Dignity of Labor*, which has been widely circulated, and a volume of *Essays* in 1882, on historical and miscellaneous subjects, of which a European critic wrote to a friend that "it must have been composed by a man who lives in a library, or who carries a library in his head." The author lives, it is true, among his books; but his modest collection can hardly be called a library. His essays, lectures, and magazine articles have all been composed during the leisure hours that a clergyman of methodical habits can generally find even in the midst of sustained and active work. Hence he will only say, with an old English poet:

My mind to me a kingdom is,
Such present joys therein I find,
That it excels all other bliss
That earth affords or grows by kind.

—SIR EDW. DYER (1550-1607).

Emily, a pious and amiable young lady, who received her education at the *Sacré-Cœur* in Paris. She had good offers of marriage, which she refused, because she would have liked to enter a convent. I have a photograph of Pius IX., which he gave her on September 9, 1861, as she was preparing to make a spiritual retreat, and under which he wrote: *Dominus ducit te in solitudinem ut Loquatur ad cor tuum*. She died at Rye Beach, New Hampshire, September 26, 1868.

Elizabeth. Educated at the *Sacré-Cœur*, in Paris. A sunshiny character and a clever writer.

Helen. Educated at the *Sacré-Cœur*, in Paris. A nun in the Order of Mercy. A good French scholar and musician. She teaches in her convent.

Isabella. Educated at the *Sacré-Cœur*, in Paris, and at the *Trinità dei Monti*, at Rome. Married, April 19, 1870, Thomas Jevons, Esq., a brother of the late distinguished writer, Professor William Stanley Jevons, a cousin of Sir



Mr. Peton-Jeune.

Henry Roscoe, M.P., and a grandson of the celebrated historian of *Lorenzo de' Medici* and *Leo the Tenth*.

The family of Jevon, now Jevons, is of Welsh extraction, deriving from Jevan ap Jorwaerth. The *s* was added to the name—merely for the sake of euphony—by my brother-in-law's grandfather, Thomas Jevons. The earliest known ancestor is Sir Richard Jevon, of Sedgely Hall, Staffordshire, England, who lived in the fifteenth century. This old country mansion, which is visited by members of the family as their *Cunabula Gentis*, was inhabited some years ago by “a community of Jesuit Fathers, who received me very politely, and showed me the place,” writes one who went there. The arms are: *or*, a torteau between three saltires *gules*.

The children of this marriage are:

1. Reginald Jevons;
2. Thomas Seton-Jevons;
3. Ferdinand Talbot Roscoe Jevons; and
4. Marguerite Jevons.

They all give proof of that love of study and literary talent which they inherit from their family on both sides.

VI. WILLIAM SETON, ESQ., of New York, Representative of Parbroath. Was born in the city of New York at 22 Bond Street, then a fashionable quarter, on January 28, 1835. One of the first students at Fordham College when the Jesuits took it. Passed afterward to Mount Saint Mary's, Emmittsburg, Maryland, with his two younger brothers. Has travelled extensively in Europe, and speaks French and German fluently. Is also a good Latin scholar. Studied Law and passed his examination for the Bar. The Civil War breaking out just then, he never practised, but answered President Lincoln's earliest call for troops in 1861. Was a First Lieutenant and afterward Captain in the Fourth New York Regiment U. S. Volunteers, and was twice severely wounded in the battle of Antietam, where the official report says that

“he acquitted himself with great gallantry.” After recovering at Cragdon from his injuries, he was appointed Captain in the Sixteenth Artillery during Grant’s campaign against Richmond. After the war he began a life of study and literary occupation, becoming favorably known to the public by several works of fiction: *Romance of the Charter Oak* and *Pride of Lexington* (historical novels); *Rachel’s Fate, and Other Tales*; and *The Pioneer*, a poem which won the admiration of William Cullen Bryant. After a few years he abandoned the line of fiction to devote himself to the study of Natural History, making for a long time yearly visits to Paris to meet there the most learned men in their special branches. “Mr. Seton’s name is rapidly becoming well known in Catholic circles as that of one who is doing much to popularize the discoveries of natural science in the sense of putting them into clear and interesting English, free from ultra-technicality,” says one writer. He is a frequent contributor to the *Catholic World*, a monthly periodical issued in New York, and has recently published a small scientific work entitled *A Glimpse of Organic Life, Past and Present*.

Mr. Seton is a member of the *Loyal Legion*, a patriotic society composed of officers who fought in the Civil War, and an LL.D. of Mount Saint Mary’s College. He married, January 3, 1884, Sarah Redwood Parrish, a convert to the Faith, belonging to an old Philadelphia family, and had one son, *William*, who died an infant. Mrs. Seton died in 1895. One of her ancestors founded the Redwood Library at Newport in 1747, the second public library in the American Colonies.

Of William Seton it can be said, without flattery, that he is—

A man of letters, and of manners too ;
Of manners sweet as virtue always wears,
When gay good nature dresses her in smiles.

—COWPER.



William Seton.

CHAPTER XIX.

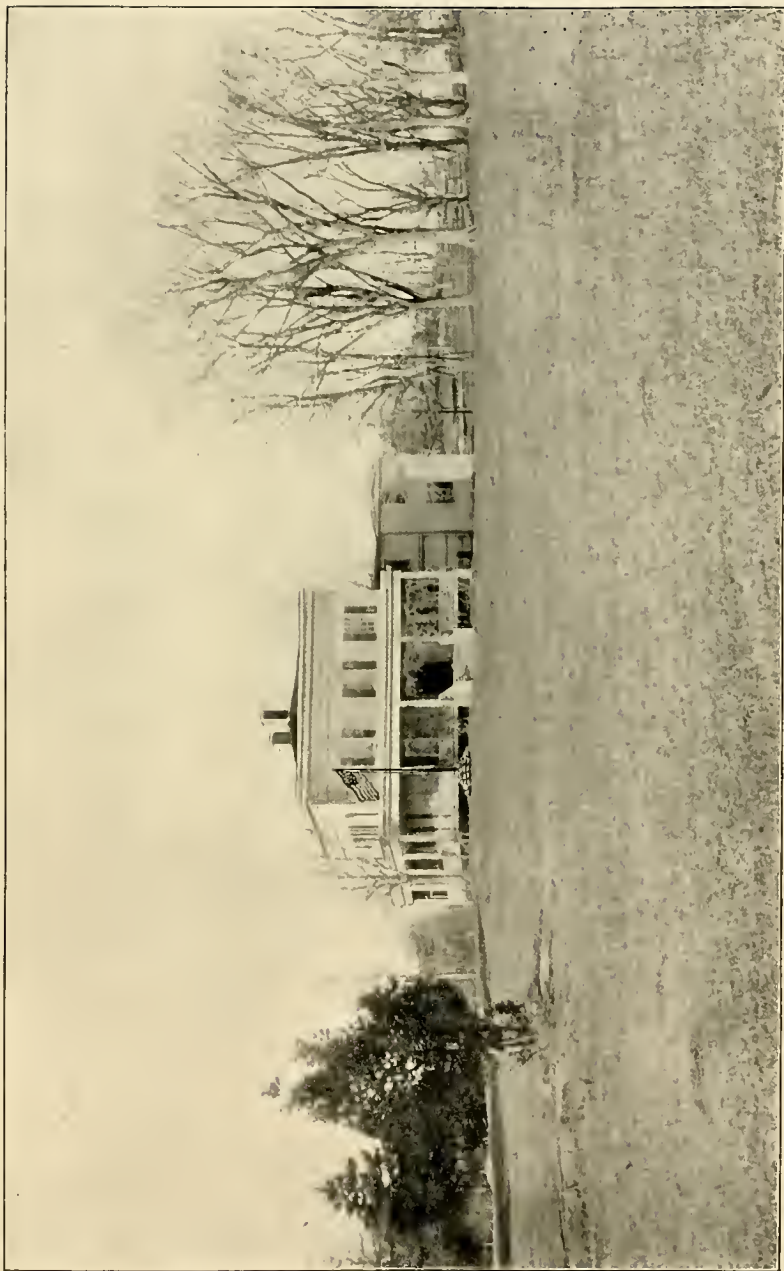
Cragdon, New York.

My earliest recollections, which go back fifty-five years, are of our life at Cragdon, in Westchester County, New York. This small but beautiful estate came to us from our mother. It was on high ground, and completely overlooked the village of East Chester.

It contained only a little less than two hundred acres, but it was kept like a park, and my father might have said, as in the inscription of Lord Chancellor Seton at Pinkie House, that his dwelling was erected *Non ad animi, sed fortunarum et agelli modum*: “Not in the dimension of his tastes and wishes, but in the measure of his fortune and his grounds.” The place was originally called *The Cedars*, from the number of these trees growing wild there; but my father named it *Cragdon*, partly because his grandfather had had a place of this name on Manhattan Island fifty years before, and more because it was so appropriate, the situation being high, and part of the trout stream that ran through the grounds being bordered by many big rocks, among which grew the spreading beech and other trees fantastically shaped or pushed out of the perpendicular and leaning over the water. This stream was originally known as Rattlesnake Brook, because, according to the Town Records, a general beating up its course from sunrise to sunset was ordered some time in the last century, and a great number of these reptiles were killed, and the breed exterminated in that locality. My father’s favorite tree was the elm, and next the larch, and he had many of them planted

about his grounds. As children, we gave fancy names to certain dear spots: Mother's Walk, Paradise Wood (from the number of wild-flowers), Turtle Woods (full of land tortoises), and the Island of Happy Delight, at the head of the upper pond, where we held our picnics in summer. Other names of earlier date, each with some story attached, were Wolf's Cave, Cold Spring, the Falls, and Pulpit Rock.

We had a French governess in the house; and private teachers—among them a Professor of Columbia College—came up from the city so many days in the week. One of the sayings of my father which made an indelible impression on my mind was this, that if there wouldn't be much money—divided among seven—to leave us, we should certainly have the advantages of the best education. We were brought up in aristocratic seclusion. Our ancient Scotch descent, our gentle English connections, and the social superiority of our family were made familiar to us from childhood; while the heirlooms and miniatures, and old letters with armorial seals upon them, would be tangible witnesses of our association with other lands and other ages. We had therefore something to look back upon with a justifiable sense of pride. Our nearest visitors lived miles away: at Throgg's Neck, around Fort Schuyler, at New Rochelle, at Rye, at the Van Cortlandt Manor. Mount Vernon did not yet exist. Our only railroad station was William's Bridge, three miles distant, which my father used to say was quite near enough to a gentleman's house; and he usually preferred to drive the twelve or fifteen miles down the old Boston post road, through West Farms and Harlem, to the city. Like all the Colonial families, my father had a stock of old Madeira. It had been brought to New York by his grandfather in 1790. Some of it passed into other cellars later, and was drunk as the "Seton Madeira" at that famous dinner given to the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia by Mr. Grinnell in 1872, in his house on Fifth



THE MANSION HOUSE AT CRAGDON, 1850.



WILLIAM SETON, 1850.

Avenue, corner of Fourteenth Street. The late Cardinal (then Archbishop) McCloskey, who was a guest, spoke to me once about the inestimable flavor of that wine. In winter the village people of East Chester were allowed to come to our skating pond in the evening and enjoy themselves. My father would even have bonfires made for them on the rising ground above it. When our own icehouse was filled, the villagers were permitted to cut and take all they wanted for themselves.

The only way of heating the rooms of our house was by open fireplaces. Stoves were considered a vulgar abomination, and steam-heating had not been introduced. In the parlors, dining-room, and library only Liverpool coal, as it was called, was used, and in the upper chambers and bedrooms only wood was burned. The fire here always seemed brighter and pleasanter to me, because the hickory and chestnut and beechwood logs and the hemlock cones came from our own place. Electric lights and gas and lamps were unknown in those days, and our only light at night was from wax candles in sconces and silver candelabra, and flat-bottomed silver bedroom candlesticks. One must be able to look back over half a century to know how different life was in a country house then to what it is now. There was good fishing, and great duck-shooting on the Sound, and my father was much given to these sports. Our boathouse was at Reed's Mill, on East Chester Creek, where there was a large patch of salt meadows belonging to the Cragdon Estate. When spring returned, the pleasure of our walks about Cragdon is indescribable. My mother and I would generally go out together, and she would take one side of the path and I the other, and our joy would be to count up the number of flowerets each had seen at that welcome season. It was after one of our walks of this kind together that my dear mother took the bunch of wild-flowers I had gathered for her, and going to New York next day, had

a first sitting for the miniature portrait which, as a surprise for me, she had painted with them at her bosom, as in the illustration :

The loveliest flowers the closest cling to earth,
And they first feel the sun ; so violets blue,
So the soft star-like primrose drenched in dew,
The happiest of Spring's happy, fragrant birth.

—KEBLE.

A particularly vivid recollection of my early days is about sacks of meal and flour and potatoes and barrels of apples from our place, that my father sent down during the Famine to a relief ship in New York, that was loading for Ireland. One thing strikes me at this time, more than fifty years afterward, because I contrast it with the growth of our national spirit and the awakening of our people to their destiny. We were the only house around which either had a flag or ever thought of raising it. This was always done on Washington's Birthday, Fourth of July, and Evacuation Day. In fact, the only American flag, except the one we owned, that I remember seeing then was at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where I sometimes went with my father, who was one of the founders of the Naval Lyceum there. Our Fourth of July fireworks used to gather the villagers to our front lawn, which was free that evening to all.

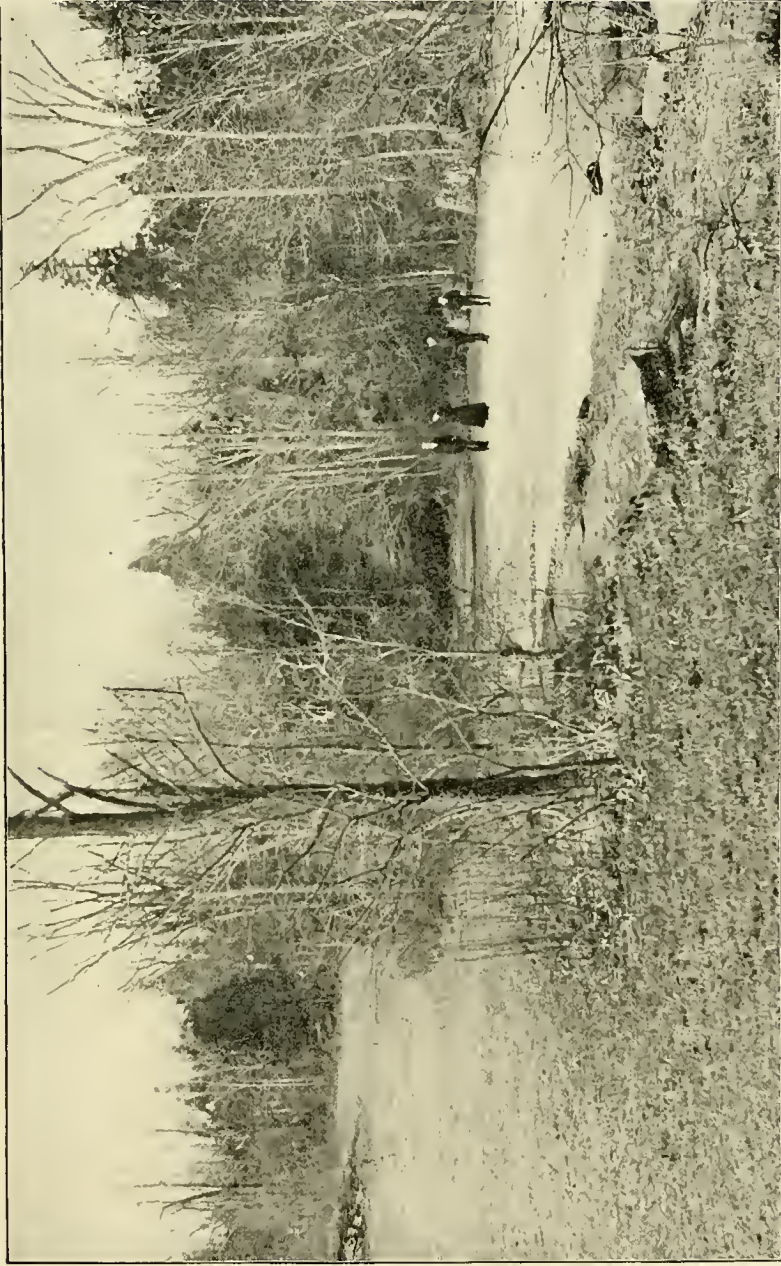
Cragdon was sold a few years ago.

The following article, which appeared in the *New York Evening Post*, September 5, 1898, is from the pen of Mr. Edward N. Vallandigham, by whose kind permission I reproduce it here :

"A COUNTRY LANE IN TOWN.

"BEAUTY OF A LITTLE-KNOWN THOROUGHFARE OFF THE BOSTON ROAD
—A SUGGESTED TRIP FOR PEDESTRIANS.

"Since the Seton Lane has become a thoroughfare of New York city, it seems likely soon to be civilized out of its rural charm. Already, indeed,



THE SKATING POND AT CRAGDON.



EMILY PRIME (MRS. WILLIAM SETON).

one fork of the lane, the larger and once much the wilder, has been greatly damaged in the name of civilization. Two years ago a wheeled vehicle could barely pass the lane at some points, because of the dense shrubbery that grew along each side and met in the middle. Last year much of this shrubbery was ruthlessly hacked away, but Nature, long absolute mistress of the lane, made haste this spring to repair the damage, and although carters hauling wood can still drive through the lane without losing their heads or their hats, the place has really taken on again much of its wild beauty. Those who would see this rural thoroughfare before civilization takes a new and fatal grip, will do well to make haste, and, as the geography of Seton Lane is known only to dwellers in the region thereabouts, a word or two of direction may be of use to intending explorers.

"Standing high up on a grassy bank that overlooks the Boston Road, and upon the left as one proceeds towards Boston, is a weatherbeaten brown-stone mile-post, which says that the spot is fifteen miles from New York. The stone itself and the region northward for about half a mile along the Boston Road are now, as a matter of fact, within the city limits. A few rods below the stone, on the same side of the Boston Road, and almost exactly opposite pole No. 628 of the long-distance telephone line to Boston and the East, is the entrance to the larger fork of Seton Lane.

"Any person with the historic instinct, and some slight acquaintance with local history, standing at the entrance to Seton Lane and looking up and down the Boston Road, can hardly fail to please himself with visions of what must have been going on thereabouts when the Republic was young, and even earlier, in colonial days. Two miles below is quaint little Bronxdale, with its rival inns, one of them redolent of old coaching days, and kept by the man whose father established it in the first decade of the century. Half a mile above is East Chester, with an immense old coaching inn, that stands on a spot which has been the site of a public house for nearly two and a quarter centuries. Not far beyond is the charming old St. Paul's Church of East Chester, wrested from the Presbyterians by the Episcopalians, thanks to the aid of a royal Governor, and used during the Revolutionary war as a hospital for wounded soldiers. Within sight of the old church is the country house where John Adams used to visit his son-in-law, and whither that son-in-law was brought a dripping corpse, found drowned hard by in East Chester Creek, the crooked stream that figures magnificently in the river-and-harbor bill as Hutchinson River.

"Seton Lane itself hardly needs the glamour of historical interest to enhance its charm. Its longer fork, perhaps half a mile in length, runs for a few rods almost at right angles to the Boston Road, to a deserted homestead, and then, taking a sharp turn, plunges recklessly down hill, between banks of ever-increasing height, until it reaches the edge of Seton Brook. Shut in between the shrubbery banks of the lane, the explorer hears, without suspecting the cause, a muffled roar of distant railway trains converging

upon the city, or diverging into the suburbs; a noise, however, that does not still the chatter of squirrels or the song of swarming wood-birds. Overhead is a strip of tropical blue sky. Seen through breaks in the edging of shrubbery are high, almost barren, pastures, with great outcropping gray rocks seamed and lichened. Under foot is thin sod over rock, with here and there broad, bare, rocky stairs, down which in early spring flow cataracts of rain-water to join the brook.

"The wild flora of the whole region seems to be epitomized in Seton Lane. Bitter-sweet, Virginia creeper, several kinds of clematis, and other climbing and twining vines clothe the rocks. Wild grapevines make little bowers over long strips. Wild blackcap raspberries ripen abundantly for any wanderer to pick. A great field of salmon-colored lilies glows in the sunshine just south of the lane. Wild pinks and a dozen more familiar blossoms star the grass at the lane-side. Everything, from the red squirrel scampering along the worm-fence, to the snake that slips beneath the sheltering leaf, is full of rural suggestion, yet a twenty minutes' walk along Sahara, the dreariest square mile of urban territory, brings one to the White Plains Road, and another half hour lands one in the heart of the city.

"The longer arm of Seton Lane ends in front of what was recently the gate to the old Seton homestead, a great rambling house, in the colonial style, set amid a delightful wilderness. Starting from the same gateway, and leading out to the Boston Road at East Chester, half a mile from the point at which the longer arm of the lane leaves that road, is the shorter arm of Seton Lane. This grassy thoroughfare is edged by the brook, and hedged with unspoiled shrubbery. At its very mouth, a few yards from the Boston Road, a quaint little bridge carries the lane over the brook. Here is the greenest and most deliciously picturesque spot imaginable, with an odd little cottage* deep in shade upon one side and upon the other a great open field, given over to grass and wild flowers.

"The explorer, if so minded, may walk northward from this point a few yards along the Boston Road and take the street-car to the New Haven Railway station at Mt. Vernon. If, however, he be of a truly adventurous spirit, he will do better by retracing his steps through the shorter arm of Seton Lane, entering the gateway of the Seton homestead, crossing the bridge that spans the brook just within the gateway, and taking the path to the left that skirts the brook.

"This path leads to the loveliest wild spot in the northern suburbs. Steadily ascending, the path takes one to a rocky ridge, densely shaded with hemlocks. This grove clothes the stream for 200 or 300 yards on either side, and so dense is the shade in parts that only a few flickering rays of sun-light visit the ground even at noonday. The stream flows deep between banks of jagged rocks, and there are densely shaded rocky seats overhanging

* This was our gardener's house which my father had built for him in 1840.



THE WOLF'S CAVE AT CRAGDON.
Winter.



A WINTER SCENE AT CRAGDON.

the water. Near one of these seats is a great crystal spring securely shaded and protected from impurities by a broad flat stone. At one point in the heart of the hemlock grove the stream falls in two cascades. The banks are for ever russet with fallen leaves and the needles of the hemlocks. Curious dense-green shade-loving plants flourish here, and the whole place, with its gray rocks and deep shade, has druidical suggestions. In mid-winter, when snow covers the ground, the effect is as of an arctic fairy-land.

“The path, smooth and well defined, brings one finally to the open fields, beyond which lies the Kingsbridge road. The explorer may follow the latter southward to the White Plains road, or, better still, keeping resolutely across unforbidden fields to the Bathgate woods, may stroll for half a mile or more through the shade of that delightful bit of genuine forest land until, as in the case of the first alternative, he comes to the White Plains road, with Woodlawn station and the train to New York only ten minutes' walk distant.”

CHAPTER XX.

LELIA SETON WILDER.

LELIA SETON WILDER is descended from James Seton, of Drogheda, in Ireland, one of whose sons, Samuel, went to America at the end of the last century and settled, as we have seen, in Western Pennsylvania. His only son, William Seton, born November 1, 1772, became a Presbyterian minister of great eloquence and learning. His Hebrew, Greek, and Latin books are still in the possession of the family. Rev. William Seton settled at Olivesburg, Richland County, Ohio, and married Sarah Henderson, of a good old Scotch family, in 1804. They had several children, of whom William Henderson Seton, born August 12, 1825, was the youngest son. After serving as an officer in the Mexican War, he served again as Captain in the Twenty-second Ohio Infantry in the Civil War. On September 6, 1859, he married Rachel Cantwell, who was a descendant of the celebrated Roger Williams, of Rhode Island. Lelia Seton, their only child, was born on her father's property at Olivesburg, near Mansfield, Ohio, in 1864, and in 1883 married Charles Rollin Wilder, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, who moved to Alabama and bought a plantation of sixteen hundred acres, which is now called "Wilder Place," near Decatur. Mr. Wilder died in 1885. His handsome widow began immediately with great energy and success to manage her large property in person, and is considered a remarkable character in the South and all over the United States for being able to do so. Mrs. Seton Wilder is highly educated, and was the Valedictorian of her class on graduating from the Memphis High School.

CHAPTER XXI.

HERALDRY OF THE SETONS.

It is surprising how little is known in America of heraldry, a subject whose practical uses almost every family aspiring to social position desires to take advantage of. Most assuredly a science which has engaged the attention of many learned men, and the writers on which, in all ages and in every country, have been largely drawn from the ranks of the clergy, cannot be altogether devoid of interest and instruction.

Dante constantly describes persons by their armorial bearings in his *Divine Comedy*, and so does Tasso in *Jerusalem Delivered*, and the very name of the inn or hostelry immortalized in the prologue to the *Canterbury Tales* has an heraldic odor clinging to it:

“In Southwark at *The Tabard* as I lay.”

Armorial ensigns, handed down from generation to generation, are symbols of which the descendants of the first possessors may feel justly proud, and to whom not unfrequently, in these days, the ancestral shield and surname alone remain, long after the old homestead has fallen to decay and the broad acres that surrounded it have become the inheritance of strangers. Heraldry has been called a science of fools; but I suspect it is a case of what Gibbon says of beauty, “seldom despised, except by those to whom it has been refused.”

There is, perhaps, no family in Scotland—there is certainly not one in America—the heraldry of which is so ancient, so

honorable, and so abundant as that of Seton. The arms of Avenel were *gules six annulets argent*. The oldest heraldic memorial of this ancient family is the seal of Sir Robert Avenel, a Norman benefactor of Melrose, which is appended to one of the Abbey charters, as on page 9.



SEAL OF SIR ALEX.
SETON, 1216.

The Seton arms are conspicuous in the two oldest and most celebrated collections in Europe, the *Armorial de Gelre* and the *Armorial de Berry*, and the number of colored shields in George Seton's *History* is over three hundred and three. The American Setons can add a dozen more, for no one of our line has ever married unless into an armigerous family.

The arms of the de SAYS were very simple, as in the case of all the more ancient families, being quarterly *or* and *gules*. The arms of the illustrious ducal family of de Gontaut, in France, are the same. The noblest metals, in heraldry, are *or* and *argent*, gold and silver; and the fairest tinctures are *gules* and *azure*, red and blue. These were generally adopted by royal houses and by the *haute noblesse*; and indicate, when ancient, a more illustrious origin. The arms of the great Norman family of the Mandevilles (de Magnavil), Earls of Essex, being also quarterly *or* and *gules*, has led some writers to suggest either a common origin of the Mandevilles and SAYS, or even that these derived their arms from those. I assert just the contrary: those got their arms from these. In fact, William de Say married in the twelfth century Beatrix de Mandeville, eventually Heiress of her name and family. The eldest son of this union, William de Say, dying in the lifetime of his father, left two daughters, the elder of whom, Beatrix, married Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, who became Earl of Essex, and whose sons and successors assumed the name of Mandeville with the paternal arms of Say, a common custom

in that age. The original arms of the Mandevilles remain unknown.

The earliest recorded arms of the Setons of Scotland are given by Nisbet, the famous writer on Heraldry, who says: "Dougal de Setoun. His armorial bearing was *or*, three crescents *gules*; and it may be reasonably supposed that the lands of Setoun being formed by the sea in the fashion of a half-moon, the crescents were assumed by the said Dougal."

The arms ascribed to Dougal were to be seen amid the splendid blazonry of Seton castle. William Playfair* agrees with Nisbet, and writes that "the ancient and honorable family of Seton may be said to have assumed crescents for armorial figures, upon the account that their ancient territories and lands in East Lothian are formed by the river Forth, into three great bays, like three half-moons."

The tinctures *or* and *gules* of the Says were tenaciously adhered to by the Say-touns, although, as was a common practice in earlier ages, they made some distinction on founding a new and henceforth separate family in another kingdom, by assuming certain figures (crescents) which were to have one of the two colors of the original family. As regards the reason for assuming these figures, while Nisbet and Playfair are considerable authority, I prefer the opinion of other writers



SILVER-MOUNTED SHELL SNUFFBOX
GIVEN BY THE EARL OF WINTON
TO SIR GEORGE SETON OF PAR-
BROATH.

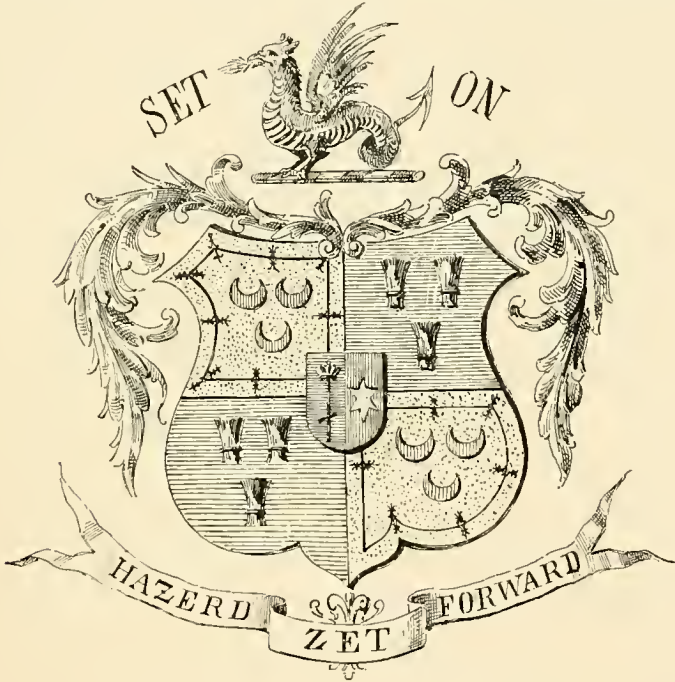
* *British Family Antiquity*, Vol. VIII.

who ascribe them to a Crusading origin and to some victory over the Saracens. The same arms exactly are emblazoned in the *Salle des Croisades*, at Versailles, as borne by one of the great barons in the Fourth Crusade: Eudes du Vermandois, A.D. 1205, and again the same arms were used by the ancient Barons de Wahull—by Writ of Summons, 1297—in England.

Setons are frequently mentioned in the illustrated *Catalogue of the Heraldic Exhibition*, held at Edinburgh in 1891. One of the most curious and beautiful exhibits there was the "Seton Family Tree," lent by Sir Alan Henry Seton-Steuart, Bart. It is executed on parchment, the background being black and the leafage green. Over seventy shields, generally disposed as baron and femme, appear illuminated in gold and their proper tinctures. Interspersed amid the foliage of this stately and wide-spreading genealogical tree are various kinds of birds in gaudy plumage. At the foot of the tree are painted different sorts of flowers and two standing figures, one being King Malcolm Canmore and the other Dougal de Say-toune. At the top of the tree are four miniature heads of members of the Seton family. The date is 1585.

The earliest existing seal of the family is that of Sir Alexander de Seton, 1216, which also shows a very early example of Differencing, as besides the paternal ensigns it has a Label of three, or more probably five points, the end ones being broken off. This would seem to indicate that Sir Alexander used this seal during his father's lifetime. A later seal, used by another Sir Alexander Seton, in 1320, which is attached to the famous Letter to the Pope asserting the Independence of Scotland, shows a departure from the ordinary arms of the family, the three crescents being placed upon a Bend. They have been given in Henry Laing's *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals*, Nos. 736, 737. I was made acquainted with the author by Mr. George Seton some thirty-seven years

ago, at Edinburgh, and brought away with me casts of all the Seton seals in his extensive collection, but unfortunately I left them at the *Accademia* in Rome when I returned to America. The next change in the Seton arms—it is rather an addition or augmentation than a change—occurs in the



ARMS ON THE EARL OF WINTON'S SNUFFBOX.

fourteenth century, when the Double Tressure *fleurs-de-lys*, called by heralds the Royal Tressure, was granted to them in virtue of their matrimonial alliance with and descent from the reigning family. It is one of the earliest instances of such recognition in Scottish heraldry. It is thus found on the shield of Sir Alexander Seton in 1337,* and on that of

* Woodward and Burnett: *Heraldry, British and Foreign*, I., 178, and *Laing's Catalogue*, No. 891.

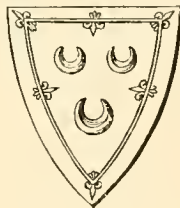
William, first Lord Seton, in 1384.* The arms were enlarged in the early part of the fourteenth century by the addition to the paternal coat of *azure*, three garbs or sheaves of wheat *or*, which are the feudal arms of the ancient Earldom of Buchan, claimed by George, third Lord Seton, in right of his wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, only child and heiress of John, Earl of Buchan, grandson of King Robert II.



SETON CREST.

A Wyvern issuing out of a Ducal coronet.

When Robert Seton was created Earl in 1600, he was granted an augmentation to his arms to consist of *azure*, a star *argent* for the title of Winton to be carried on an escutcheon surtout. It afterward occupied the sinister side of the escutcheon, parted per pale. There also appeared somewhat later, in the full achievement of the Earls of Winton, another coat of augmentation carried on the dexter side; viz., *gules*, a sword erect proper, hilted *or* supporting an imperial crown, within a double tressure of the last, which was given to the son and successor of Sir Christopher Seton, who married the Lady Christian Bruce, sister of King Robert I.—to perpetuate the services rendered to his country by himself and his progenitors, and to recognize their support of the Crown of Scotland for the lawful claimants. Woodward and Burnett (II., 534) mention this as probably the first example in Scottish heraldry of an augmentation to family arms after that of the Royal Tressure, in which, as already said, the Setons shared at an early date. It was originally granted in connection with the Barony of Barnes, and was long borne by the Setons *of Barnes*. Andrew Seton, of New York and Florida, bore these arms in right

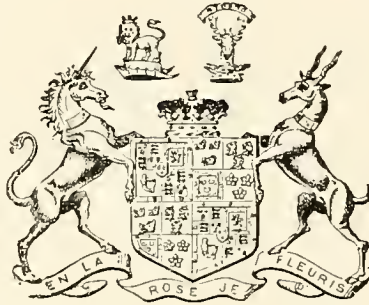


LATER ARMS OF SETON.

* George Seton: *Law and Practice of Heraldry in Scotland*, p 448.

of a Matriculation in the Lyon-Register at Edinburgh, in 1766.

The illustration gives these arms, somewhat enlarged, as they are engraved on the inside of the lid of the shell snuffbox (a *Turbo Pica*, from the island of Trinidad, cut and silver-mounted by the famous jeweller George Heriot) given by the Earl of Winton to his kinsman, Sir George Seton of Parbroath, Knight, and now preserved among our most valued heirlooms. Observe, however, that the Double Tressure is omitted on the inescutcheon, probably to avoid confusion in so small a space.*



ARMS OF DUKE OF RICHMOND AND GORDON.

The CREST is an important part of the arms. It was originally a figure—often symbolical—worn on the helmet, and is now represented above the shield. It was, at first, an ensign of high honor, and its use was restricted to persons of greater distinction than was required for the mere use of arms :

And on his head there stood upright
A crest, in token of a knight.

—GOWER.

By gradual abuse, crests have become so common that everyone who bears arms imagines that he is entitled to have a crest also. Every old crest was such a figure or device as might be actually worn upon his helmet by a mediæval warrior with dignity and a happy effect. An ancient crest, one belonging *de jure* to an old and baronial family, may be represented issuing out of a Ducal coronet

* By my own inattention there is, in this engraving of the arms, *gules* a star or instead of *azure* a star *argent* ; and *azure* instead of *gules* a sword erect.

or standing on a Cap of estate, called also of maintenance, or, briefly, a *Chapeau*. There are only three or four families in the United States which have a strict and inherited right to a



ARMS OF SETON OF ABERCORN, BART.

crest-coronet ; but we generally have the good taste not to use it, conforming rather to the more modest practice of representing our crest upon a Wreath or Orle, which, if colored, should be of the alternate tinctures of the arms. I

will here remark that the words *ancient* and *old*, as applied to family matters, have a somewhat different meaning in different countries and at different times. There are no ancient American families, although there are a few ancient families in America. There are old American families—to constitute which, some hereditary distinction and a residence in this country of at least a century are required. No family in Europe is called old which has not endured twice as long, and none is considered ancient which does not go back five hundred years, so that we may say that ancient and mediæval are there synonymous.

The English Dragon, and its Scotch equivalent the Wyvern, issuing out of a ducal coronet, are among the very earliest figures borne as crests in those two countries. Both were connected with the Arthurian legend, and symbolically with the overthrow of paganism.* A dragon was carried by

* . . . and on again,

Till yet once more ere set of sun they saw
The Dragon of the great Pendragonship,
That crown'd the state pavilion of the King,
Blaze by the rushing brook or silent well.

—TENNYSON : *Idylls*, "Guinevere."

Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester in England and Constable of Scotland, in 1250, and it passed with the lands of Winton* and Tranent to his kinsmen the Setons, but does not appear to have been used as their permanent crest before the sixteenth century, although it is alluded to in the old ballad about Lady Margaret's abduction, from which I have quoted. Over the first Lord Seton's shield in the curious *Armorial de Gelre* is an antelope's head. This interesting compilation, the work of the herald of the Duke of Gueldres mentioned by Froissart, is now preserved in the *Bibliothèque Royale* at Brussels, and contains many hundred shields of the nobility of different kingdoms, executed about 1369. Forty-two of these are Scotch, and are believed to be the oldest roll of Scottish arms in existence.



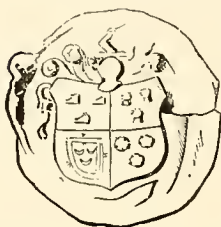
ARMS OF SETON OF PITMEDDEN,
BART.

The Hutchisons of *Seton Lodge*, Tranent, who claimed relationship with the House of Winton, used for crest a Double-headed Wyvern, on a Ducal coronet Statant, with "Hazard Zit Forward" on an escroll above it, as shown on the book-plate of Captain George Hutchison, R.N., which was kindly given me by one of his daughters.

A MOTTO usually accompanies an old and legitimate coat-of-arms. It is a word or short sentence which is inscribed under or around the shield. It is often confounded with the

* Winton is the Scotch equivalent for *Winchester*, and approaches nearer to the Latin *Venta Belgarum*—the *v* pronounced like a *u*, becoming our *w*. In an early thirteenth century charter "Seyr de Quency, Comes Wintonie"—Earl of Winton—is mentioned.

War Cry or Slogan, from which, however, it is distinct. The motto was a general and perhaps time-honored sentiment characteristic of a family through generations, and would be engraved over the castle gate or worked into the interior decorations of a dwelling-house; whereas the war cry was more military, as its name indicates, and was used only in battle and private combat, when it would be shouted defiantly, each his own, by the opposing champions. It should in correct heraldry



ARMS OF GOVERNOR
GORDON OF PENN-
SYLVANIA.

be placed above the shield of arms and be connected with the crest. The Slogan came into use earlier than the Motto, and is more highly considered. No one under the rank of a banneret, a chief of clan, or a military commander was entitled to it. Almost everyone who has a coat-of-arms has also a motto; but not many, and those only of once powerful and feudal families, have also a right to the war cry or slogan,

which is, like the crest-coronet, an heraldic proof of mediæval origin. The war cry, called in Scotland the *slogan*, was often taken from the family name, as “A Seton! a Seton! Set-on!” or from the gathering place of the clan, as “Bellandaine!” (a place at the head of Borthwick Water, Roxburghshire), of the Scotts of Buccleugh.

Most mottoes are in Latin, but these generally date only from the period of the Revival of Letters. The oldest mottoes are, almost without exception, in Norman-French or in quaint English. The Seton motto is HAZARD ZET FORWARD.

Sometimes it will be found written *Hazard zit Fordward*, sometimes *Hazard Zet Forward*, and sometimes again even *Hazard Yet Forward*. This makes no material difference. In the manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a curious *g* is found, which in early English print was made to

resemble a *z*, as when we find “neighbor” spelt “neizbor” in Chaucer. This *g* was meant for the soft *g* of the Anglo-Saxon in its transition to *y* or *i*, as in “gif,” “gef,” for If. The meaning, then, of our elliptical motto is:

At whatever risk yet go forward.

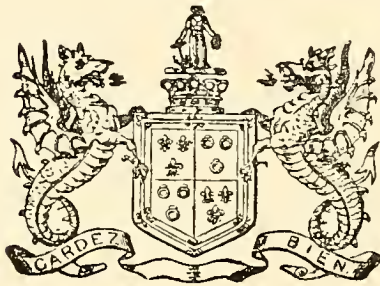
The SUPPORTERS of the Winton arms were two wildcats collared and chained. These fierce little animals were of that now almost extinct species in Scotland called the Martrick or Mertrick, which is mentioned by Hector Boece and by Bishop Leslie in the sixteenth century, and described by Martin in his *Western Islands*, printed at London in 1703, who says that the “Mertrick, a four-footed creature about the size of a big cat,” is pretty numerous in Harris. It has a fine skin, smooth as any fur, and of a brown color. There was, a few years ago, one of these rare animals in the Cat House of the Zoological Gardens in London, which is said to have been “not only untamed but untamable, and would be extremely dangerous if he were brought in too close quarters with a friend or an enemy. This specimen came from Sutherland.”



ARMS OF BARON HALKETT.

After the marriage of Lady Elizabeth Gordon, Heiress of that name, with Alexander Seton, created Lord Gordon in 1437, their descendants, Setons and Gordons, all retained the paternal coat *or*, three crescents *gules*, within the Royal Treasury. It is found in the arms of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, of the Marquess of Huntly, of the Baronets of Abercorn and of Pitmedden, of the Lairds of Mounie, and of others. The Setons of Abercorn quarter, also, *argent* three

shields *gules*, by descent from the Setons of Touch and Tullibody, who succeeded to the great estate of Egidia, daughter and heiress of John Hay of Tullibody and second wife of Alexander Seton, first Earl of Huntly. The crest, seen on



ARMS OF THE EARL OF EGLINTON.

the letters of Mrs. George Seton to her brother in New York in the last century, is a boar's head *couped*, to show their descent from the Gordons also, whose paternal coat is *azure*, three boars' heads *couped or*. The Setons of Pitmedden quarter the Meldrum arms, with their paternal coat, being *argent* a demi-otter *sable* crowned *or*, issuing out of a bar wavy of the second, to show their descent from Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William de Meldrum *of that Ilk*. The crest is a demi-man in military habit, holding the Banner of Scotland, with above it the glorious motto *Sustento Sanguine Signa*. This crest was given by royal command in order to commemorate the gallantry of John Seton of Pitmedden, who was shot through the heart at the Bridge of Dee (June 18, 1639) while holding the banner aloft and calling on his followers to charge the rebels. A somewhat similar motto, and for a somewhat similar reason, is used by the very ancient French family of Châteaubriand: *Mon Sang Teint Les Bannières De France*.

I have seen in one of the halls of the University of Bologna the arms, painted in fresco, of John Seton of Meldrum, who was a student of law there in 1603. Underneath them is the inscription, *D. Ioannes Sitonius Scotus Meldroni Dominus—i.e., Sir John Seton, a Scot, Laird of Meldrum*.

The Seton and Gordon arms of the Earl of Huntly are beautifully emblazoned on the heraldic ceiling of St. Machar's

Cathedral at Old Aberdeen, dating from 1520. This interesting *armorial* consists of a series of shields carved in low relief, and brilliantly colored to the number of forty-eight, arranged in three rows of sixteen each, in parallel lines.

The Seton arms are seen on old documents in the State House at Harrisburg, on the seal of Major-General Patrick Gordon, Governor of Pennsylvania (1726-1736), who was great-grandson of John Gordon, Laird of Britmore, younger son of John Gordon of Cluny, second son of Alexander Gordon, Laird of Strathaven, third son of Alexander, Earl of Huntly, grandson of Alexander Seton, Lord of Gordon and Earl of Huntly in 1450. There is a portrait of General Gordon in the Governor's Room in the State House at Harrisburg.



ARMS OF ALEXANDER SETON, COMMENDATORY PRIOR OF PLUSCARDIN.

SIGNATURE OF ALEXANDER SETON, PRIOR OF PLUSCARDIN, 1586.

There was formerly (1776), and perhaps there still is, a family in South Carolina of the name of Gordon, which was said to be of *Baldornie*, and which quartered the Seton arms with their own.

Hay of Dunse Castle, Urquhart of Meldrum and Byth, and Gordon of Abergeldie do the same. The Earls of Sutherland also quartered the Seton-Gordon arms, at one time, as in

the set of Scottish heraldic playing cards, fifty-four in number, of the year 1691. Another family quartering the Seton arms with their own is that of Baron Halkett, of an old Fifeshire family, by descent from Georgina-Robina Seton, daughter and heiress of George Robert Seton, Esq., by Margaret Abercromby, his wife, who in 1771 married Major-General Frederick Halkett. Their great-grandson is the present Hugh Colin Gustave George Halkett, Baron Halkett of the Kingdom of Hanover, who married an American.

The Earls of Eglinton continue to use the old Montgomerie arms; only, on account of the succession of Sir Alexander Seton as sixth Earl of Eglinton in 1612, they have assumed the Double Tressure around them, and have changed their Supporters, substituting Wyverns—the Seton crest—for their former ones, which were Angels in dalmatics, “ever since they came from the House of Seton.”

I give two illustrations of the arms of Alexander Seton, afterward Lord Chancellor of Scotland. The first is his seal, when made an extraordinary Lord of Session in 1585, with the style of Prior of Pluscardin. The Priory was dedicated to the Apostle of Scotland, whose name was also given to the valley in which it was situated, which in ecclesiastical documents is always called “the Vale of Saint Andrew.” In this seal Saint Andrew, holding his cross, stands in the centre, supported on either side by a crowned figure, all three being in niches or under canopies. Below these figures is the shield bearing the paternal arms of his family, with a crozier (properly turned inward) behind and rising above it. On either side are his initials A. S. The legend around the seal reads: *S. Rotundum Alexandri . Prioris . De . Pluscardin.*

The next seal is the Chancellor’s as Earl of Dunfermline, in 1618. It is quarterly, first and fourth, the Seton arms; second and third *argent*, on a fess *gules*, three cinquefoils of the first. The crest is a half-moon *gules*, and the motto the

Latin word *Semper*. Supporters: two horses at liberty, *argent*, maned and tailed *or*. The inscription around the seal is: *Sigillum Alexandri . Setonii . Fermelinoduni . Comitis &c.* The Cinquefoils were assumed to commemorate his Hamilton descent.



ARMS OF ALEXANDER SETON, FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE.

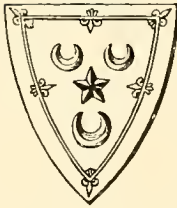
Dunfermelyn

SIGNATURE OF THE FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE, 1618.

The Viscounts Kingston carried quarterly, first and fourth, Seton; second and third *argent* a Dragon (Wyvern—the family crest) with wings expanded, tail nowed *vert*. Crest, a crescent flaming. Supporters, two negroes wreathed about the head and middle with laurel. Motto: *Habet et Suam*.

CHAPTER XXII.

ARMS OF THE SETONS OF PARBROATH.



LATER ARMS OF
SETON OF PAR-
BROATH.

IN former times, when younger sons, who were then called Cadets, were fortunate enough to “erect and establish new houses,” and retained (which was not always the case) their paternal arms, they used them only with some additional figure or with some other change, called, in the language of heraldry, *a mark of cadency*. The Setons of Parbroath in consequence first used the shield *or*, three crescents within a double tressure *gules*, with a small crescent in the centre for difference. Nisbet informs us* that he saw these arms painted in Seton Castle. Thus, also, it appears on the dainty old mother-of-pearl Card Counter which is one of our heirlooms. In Sir David Lindsay’s Register and also on one of the heraldic ceilings of Collairnie Castle, in Fifeshire, the



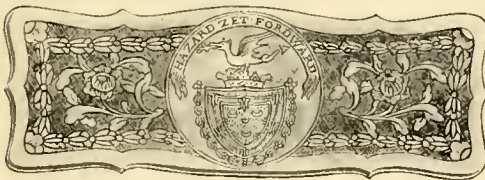
BOOK-PLATE OF WILLIAM SETON.

* *System of Heraldry*, 1., 236.

ancient house of the Barclays, the Parbroath arms are painted with a Mullet *azure* in the centre instead of the crescent. It may have been assumed to commemorate an alliance with the powerful house of Lindsay, when Alexander Seton, of this family, married a daughter of Lord Lindsay of the Byres. In 1601 we find appended to a Glammis charter the seal of Sir George Seton of Parbroath, which is unique, and exhibits a wide divergence from the customary arms of the family. It shows the shield with three crescents within a *bordure engrailed*, and three fleurs-de-lys—one at top and one on either side—instead of the Royal Tressure. Around it is the legend *S. Georgii . Seytone . M.*, meaning *Sigillum Georgii Setonii Militis*. For much more than a century the Setons, late of Parbroath and now of New York, have used the paternal arms of Seton only; and it was the opinion of the learned John Riddell, “the first genealogical antiquary of Europe,” that the Setons of



ARMS OF SIR GEORGE SETON
OF PARBROATH.



EARLIER ARMS OF SETON OF PARBROATH.

(From an old mother-of-pearl card-counter.)

Parbroath, as being now the only Setons of original stock through unbroken male descent, are better entitled than any one to bear the family arms without a difference. They thus appear on William Seton's notarial seal of 1779, with the legend around it: *Willm. Seton . Not. Pub. New York . In . America*; and on his elegant ribbon and wreath armorial book-plate, mentioned by Charles Dexter Allen in his *Early Ameri-*

can Book-Plates. My own book-plate shows the paternal arms, surmounted by the hat of a Prothonotary Apostolic. Clergymen should perhaps not use a Crest or Slogan, because these are parts of the blazon suggestive of war ; nor Supporters, because they originated in the strife of Tournaments.



CONCLUSION.

This Record of an ancient and once illustrious family is now closed. The vicissitudes of Time make an end of such things—*finis rerum*—in the common doom that overtakes

“ The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power.”

Of the Setons it may be said, in the very words almost of that famous inscription in Westminster Abbey, that they came of a noble race, for all the sons were valiant and all the daughters virtuous. This is something to be proud of. The love of ancestry and the hope that an honored name will be passed down unsullied to posterity is no unworthy sentiment, but rather an aspiration after higher things ; for, in the words of him who has left us the impressions that filled his breast as he stood amid the broken tombs of kings and the ruins of monastic houses at Iona :

“ *Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses, whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.*”

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